

# In Memory of Dario Balistrieri

(by G. Paccaloni)



We all at the SPE Italian Section have recently been shocked by the sad news of Dario's death, at age 77.

Since a few years he did not attend our SPE functions for a progressive illness, and knowing his enthusiasm and dedication for the development of our section, I can imagine how displeased he could feel.

In 1985 Dario was part of the small group of visionaries that wanted to create a formal SPE organisation in Italy. He was our first Program Chairman, a role that he covered under the leadership of Sugny and Colamasi from 1986 to 1988. We traveled together

very often to attend the SPE Regional Officers meetings in many european venues, and we became for several years a solid team, sharing enthusiasm, commitment, and passion in our role of ambassadors of the SPE Adriatic Section. I

loved Dario's humour, listening to amusing anecdotes of his rich experience, from his adventurous flights over the Sahara desert on board of old-fashioned DC-3 airplanes, to his field work as mud engineer of Baroid in Israel, Egypt, Lybia,





Algeria, North Sea, Italy.

Once he told me of when he barely saved his life by being a few minutes late boarding an helicopter to go offshore: a few minutes after take off, the Puma crashed provoking the death of all 15 on board!

Another scary story that Dario liked to tell was dealing with his service on board a platform off shore the Gaza Strip, during the “War of Attrition”, 1970. He saw egyptian fighter planes rushing loudly above his head, and

disappearing to drop bombs nearby his Baroid base.



Dario graduated in Chemical Engineering in 1969 at Genova U., with a thesis in Petroleum Engineering. After Baroid, he worked at Romital, Gradner Denver, Orton Italiana, and finally in 1978 he founded Mepeco

(Mediterranean Petroleum Company) that he run proudly and successfully. Today Mepeco is managed by his son Roberto, and keeps being a sponsor of the SPE Italian Section without interruption since 1986.

Our friend Dario, distinguished example of professionalism and passion, will be greatly missed.

