

SME NEWS

SME AWARDS

Ben F. Dickerson III Award to Siegfried Muessig

The Ben F. Dickerson III Award is presented to Siegfried Muessig. The award recognizes professionalism and contributions to the mining industry. Muessig is a minerals consultant and president of Crystal Exploration, Inc. The company operates a dormant joint-venture,

diamond-exploration program with Ashton Mining and Dow Chemical in the Great Lakes region. Muessig is also on the advisory board of Bay-swater Uranium, a junior Canadian uranium exploration company.

Muessig was born in Freiburg, Germany and emigrated with his

family to Ohio in 1927. He served as a pilot and flight engineer in the Army Air Corps during World War II. He has a Ph.D. in geology from Ohio State University. His early professional years were with the mineral-deposits branch of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).



MUESSIG

In 1955, on leave from the USGS, he led a group that mapped the extensive borate deposits in the Argentine Altiplano. He left the USGS in 1959 to manage an exploration group at U.S. Borax. In 1966, he joined Getty Oil where he organized a new minerals group, Getty Mining — one of the most successful exploration and mining groups of its time. As

Getty's vice president of exploration and international mining, Muessig directed the acquisition, exploration and development program. He was directly involved in the discovery of the world-class Jabiluka uranium deposit and the Escondida and Zaldívar copper deposits. He also participated in the acquisition of substantial coal reserves, the discovery and mining of new uranium reserves at Petrotomics in Wyoming and the discovery of gold reserves at Mercur, UT. As Getty's board member on Tidal Diamonds, a partner with the DeBeers group, he negotiated a

deal that resulted in the first successful major offshore diamond-mining venture in Namibia. Muessig is a past president of the Society of Economic Geologists, a Distinguished Member of SME and a Fellow of the Geological Society of America. He is on the board of governors of the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum and is a founding member of the Energy Minerals Division of the AAPG. He served on the Executive Uranium Advisory Committee of the American Mining Congress and was chair of the Southern California Section of SME.