Cancer claimed the life of Robert Louis Begeman on October 5, 1985, at the age of 65. He was a highly regarded geologist in South Texas and San Antonio, where he lived for the past 40 years, making numerous contributions to his profession and to the community.

Bob was born in Cedar Falls, Iowa, and lived there, in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and in St. Louis, Missouri, before the family moved to Austin in 1932. His father taught mechanical engineering at the University of Texas at Austin, and Bob earned a degree in petroleum geology there in 1943. While in high school and throughout college, Bob played first trumpet with the Austin Symphony Orchestra and even formed his own band. During World War II, he was an officer in the U.S. Army Signal Corps and served until honorably discharged in 1945.

Bob joined Stanolind Oil & Gas Company after the war. He then worked with the Seeligson Engineering Committee, conducting reservoir studies and evaluating Seeligson field, in Jim Wells County, Texas, representing major companies and small operators in the field. Bob was chief geologist for Rock Hill Oil Company from 1949 to 1956, and conducted operations in the Gulf Coast, Mid-Continent, and Rocky Mountain areas. From 1956 to 1969, he was an independent consulting geologist, operator, and partner in the firm of Tobin & Begeman. In 1969, Bob joined Tesoro Petroleum Corporation. He established its exploration department and conducted its corporate exploration and development programs in publicly offered limited partnerships. In February 1973, he was made vice president of exploration research. This latter job expanded the company’s oil and gas exploration and research efforts, and developed a search for other energy sources. In 1977, Bob resigned to resume activities as an independent geologist. At that time, he formed the Louis Companies, which he still operated at the time of his death.

Bob was an active member of many geological organizations, including AAPG and its Division of Professional Affairs, American Institute of Professional Geologists, Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists, and Independent Producers Association of America. He served in every office of the South Texas Geological Society, as well as chairman or committee member for the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies and AAPG. Whenever a job needed to be done, Bob could always be counted on. He served his profession with zeal, dignity, and enthusiasm.

A special posthumous honor was awarded Bob at a unique open meeting of the South Texas Geological Society four days after his death. The society unanimously agreed to dedicate the Contributions to the Geology of South Texas, 1985 to his memory, not only to recognize him as an example and standard of excellence but also to display a number of his creative sketches, which appeared on the cover of STGS Bulletins. In addition to his other talents, Bob was an artist of great ability.

It was my good fortune to know Bob for more than 35 years, as a fellow geologist, a friend, and a Christian gentleman devoted to family and country.

He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Patricia Ney Begeman; two children, Mary Pat Bolner of San Antonio and Michael Louis Begeman of Austin, Texas; and two grandchildren.

Bob leaves behind a great legacy to society. He was the kind of gentleman, friend, and companion we each should be close to at some time in our lives. He was a kind, sensitive man. All who knew Bob will long remember his gentle, encouraging, and supportive ways. His enriching life leaves happy, fond memories that we all seek after the loss of a loved one. His loving family and a host of devoted friends will always be grateful for the happiness and comfort his life brought to each of us. All of us in the geological world will be grateful for the many outstanding contributions he made to our profession during his lifetime.

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