



## **Thomas "Tom" R. Marshall, Jr.** **1925–2020**

Tom Marshall moved to Alaska in 1958 with a Bachelor of Science degree in geology and a strong frontier mentality. His early geologic work on the North Slope, Southcentral Alaska, and the Alaska Peninsula proved invaluable when he joined the newly formed Alaska Department of Natural Resources in 1960 to recommend land selections under the 1958 Statehood Act. Tom's recommendation of 1.59 million acres along the Arctic coast between NPR-4<sup>1</sup> and ANWR<sup>2</sup> met with significant resistance and was ridiculed widely as "Marshall's Folly." Nevertheless, Tom convinced his superiors and the Governor to proceed with the selection. Seven years later, the discovery of the largest conventional oil field in North America at Prudhoe Bay secured Tom Marshall's legacy.

<sup>1</sup>Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4, renamed National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska in 1976

<sup>2</sup>Arctic National Wildlife Range, expanded and renamed Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in 1980

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