



William "Bill" W. Patton, Jr.

1923–2009

Bill Patton served as a Marine during WWII and joined the U.S. Geological Survey in 1948, assigned to the Navy Oil Unit where he conducted pioneering work in the Brooks Range and on the North Slope. The remainder of his career focused on the Yukon-Koyukuk region, where he became the widely recognized expert. He is considered among the most accomplished geologic mappers of his generation.

Bill's work extended to remote islands in the Bering Sea, which led to productive dialogue with geologists from the Soviet Union. He also published important tectonic syntheses, including notable research on ophiolites in Alaska. In 1986, Bill's career accomplishments were recognized with receipt of the Department of the Interior's Meritorious Service Award.

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