

**SRM****SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT**  
**New Mexico Section**

## **Lost Resource – Dr. Don Dwyer**

Donald Dean Dwyer, 84, passed away July 11, 2019 after a long experience with dementia. Don was born December 28, 1934 in Hugoton, Kansas. He grew up during the Dust Bowl in southwestern Kansas, sharing family responsibilities with his mother, a seamstress, following the Great Depression. He started earning his own money at age 10 and garnered a sports scholarship to Fort Hays State University, where he achieved world class honors, running the 400-meter hurdles, and qualifying for the 1956 Olympics. He turned, instead, to academics and Marie Elder, with whom he was married for 63 years. Don graduated with his PhD in Range Management from Texas A&M, and became a full professor in the field, which included a 7-year stint at New Mexico State University and a 14-year position as department head at Utah State University. At the heart of his academic passion were the plants of New Mexico's deserts. For him, these plants represented stalwart sturdiness, innate lessons regarding conservation, and life where many see desolation. Don served on the Board of Directors for the NM Section of SRM (1970-1971) and was awarded the title of Fellow by the Society of Range Management in 1988 in recognition of exceptional service to the Society and its programs in advancing the science and art of range-related resource management. This honor is granted in the belief that special recognition should be given for exceptional and dedicated service to the Society. Don found joy in sharing regular rounds of golf, a good cup of strong black coffee, and a fine glass of wine with good friends. He will be remembered for his dry wit, stinging sarcasm, devotion to Wall Street News analysis, and daily answer to the "How are you?" question with a boisterous "I'm great!" Don is survived by Marie; son Dane and his wife Kimberly; son Eric and his husband Benjamin Baez, as well as their two children Daniel and Maria. A memorial service was held July 17, 2019 at the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum in Las Cruces.