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Petroleum Pioneers honor Angelo, Newman at upcoming reunion

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Fred Newman will receive the Technology and Engineering Award.

Continuing a legacy of honoring those who helped make the Permian Basin petroleum industry what it is today, the Petroleum Pioneers will hold their 30th Reunion October 6 at the Petroleum Museum.

The organization holds its reunions in odd-numbered years and traditionally honors a Top Pioneer. This year's Top Pioneer is Ernest Angelo, while Fred Newman will receive the Technology and Engineering Award.

"The Petroleum Museum is to help the Pioneers honor these two men," Kathy Shannon,

the museum's executive director, said via email. "Their history in the industry is incredible and admirable. They join a distinct group of people who have given so much to both the petroleum industry and to the Permian Basin."

The reunion begins with the historical program, presented by Diana Hinton, followed by a member's meeting.

Scott Tinker, director of the Bureau of Economic Geology at the University of Texas at Austin, will be the keynote speaker at the luncheon, where the two honorees will be recognized.

Angelo has spent most of his life in two of the most unpredictable and controversial fields -- the oil industry and politics, according to the Pioneers. While earning his petroleum engineering degree at LSU, he discovered his knack for politics. He worked tirelessly for the Republican party, holding a national committee position for 20 years. As mayor of Midland, he oversaw many community-changing projects: the modernization of the airport, the building of new fire stations, and Midland Park Mall.

Newman has been referred to as a maverick physicist, inventor and aviator, according to the Pioneers. Armed with a bachelor's degree in physics and math, he began life in the oilfield as a field engineer with Schlumberger. Deciding to determine his own future, he left Schlumberger to start Basin Flying Service, a Cessna dealership and flight school, and an oilfield consulting business, a five-rig drilling company, a well service company and an oilfield technology company. He holds more than seven dozen U.S. patents.

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