

## **Biography- Donald L. Blackwelder**

**Age- 67**

**Birthdate Jan 6, 1942**

**Birthplace Cincinnati, Ohio**



Donald Blackwelder was born the fourth of nine children in Cincinnati, Ohio. At the age of 16, he accompanied a professor from Brigham Young University on a tour around the world, which lasted seven months, dropping out of his last year of high school. Fortunately, BYU accepted him on probation, where he graduated with a B.A. in history and a minor in Far Eastern Studies. During his BYU tenure, he left his field of study and served a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, returning to BYU two and a half years later to finish his undergraduate degree. He is fluent in Japanese, and has a working knowledge of Arabic, German, and Hebrew.

He graduated from Brigham Young University in 1966 and worked for the Foreign Study League as the Dean of a French campus in Paris. Subsequently, he enrolled in the Middle Eastern Program at the University of Utah, where he earned a summer scholarship in Arabic at UCLA, and afterwards, was granted a two-year stipend to the American University in Cairo, Egypt where he obtained a Master's Degree in Islamic History. From Cairo, he received a tuition scholarship to Harvard University in Boston, Mass. working on a double major in Middle Eastern and Far Eastern Studies.

In 1972, he spent his first professional stint as a political analyst for Continental Oil Company (Conoco/Phillips) where he worked as a political analyst and tracked Conoco's vast world-wide development acreage, with extensive holdings & production drilling in Dubai. Subsequent to his employment with Conoco, Blackwelder started a commercial real estate company in Fairfield County- Connecticut, being duly licensed in the states of New York & Connecticut. Blackwelder operated this business for the next thirty years, eventually moving from Connecticut to Utah in 1993.

In 1996, he and a partner, started a new commercial real estate company, named D & B Commercial, which, within four years, became the fourth largest commercial real estate company in the State of Utah. Blackwelder ended up selling D & B Commercial to Prudential Utah Real Estate in October-2001 at which point, he assumed the role of Principal Broker in the Commercial Division of Prudential.

Blackwelder has specialized in investment real estate, and enjoys forecasting the value of commercial real estate projects for investors and owner/developers. In the sixteen years that Blackwelder has been in Utah, he has overseen some 3,000 transactions worth \$500,000,000. Utah has been a great place to practice commercial real estate.