

Close Up Radio Spotlights Retired Marine Geologist Jesse Hunt Jr. Recently Featured on Close Up Radio

SLIDELL, LA, UNITED STATES, May 16, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Celebrating a remarkable career spanning decades, Jesse Hunt, Jr., an esteemed marine geologist, spotlights his extensive contributions to environmental science, both locally and globally. From the deep-water mysteries of Gray's Reef to the seismic secrets of the Gulf of America, Hunt's professional journey is filled with groundbreaking research, particularly focused on the nuanced geology of underwater environments. As he transitions into retirement, Hunt is excited to share his knowledge and inspire the next generation of geologists.



Hunt's journey began with academic pursuits that were as adventurous as they were rigorous. In 1969, he earned his bachelor's degree in geology, followed by a master's degree focusing on marine geology. He authored a celebrated thesis on Gray's Reef—a significant underwater rock outcrop known for its rich biodiversity—laying the groundwork for his notable career.

In 1976, Hunt moved to New Orleans, where he joined a federal agency now known as the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. His early work involved writing environmental impact statements for oil and gas lease sales—a vital necessity as the U.S. federal government explored East Coast offshore drilling options. During this time, Hunt's expertise was leveraged to address environmental concerns about potential impacts on live-bottom reef areas, a testament to his unique combination of geological expertise and environmental stewardship.

Driven by an enduring curiosity and a desire to understand our planet's oceans, Hunt delved

deeper into the geological wonders hidden beneath the surface of the seas. This journey led him to study gas hydrates—an intriguing and vital research area due to its potential as an alternative energy resource. Gas hydrates, which form under specific cold and high-pressure conditions on the seabed, can generate vast amounts of energy. Hunt became a lead expert on gas hydrates, conducting pioneering research in the Gulf of America.

One of Hunt's most rewarding projects involved mapping the seafloor of the Gulf of America. "We used industry seismic data to map an extensive swath from Destin, Florida, to the Texas-Mexican border, discovering over 10,000 naturally occurring seeps," Hunt explains. His research was instrumental in understanding the complex underwater landscapes and their resources, highlighting opportunities for sustainable resource management.

Reflecting on his time as a marine geologist, Hunt recounts his submersible dives to explore these remote and often perilous environments. The thrill of witnessing unique geological formations first-hand and the adrenaline rush from close encounters with marine wildlife underscore the extraordinary facets of his career.

These experiences, combined with his extensive research, led to Hunt naming two significant underwater geological features—Gray's Reef and Woolsey Mound. "Naming them was a way to honor the individuals and the scientific legacies that enriched our understanding of marine geology," Hunt shares.

Hunt's insights extend beyond geology, touching on broader environmental and energy challenges. He discusses the importance of considering natural environmental cycles when addressing climate change and highlights the ongoing debate surrounding renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar. His perspective is grounded in years of scientific examination and field research, reminding us of the intricate balance between natural processes and human influence.

As Hunt looks back, he credits his father, a renowned medical doctor who encouraged him to pursue a career aligned with his passion for the ocean and the outdoors. This personal philosophy guided Hunt throughout his career, allowing him to pursue pioneering underwater



research and environmental geology.

Jesse Hunt, Jr. is an example of the profound impact one individual can have in pushing the boundaries of exploration and discovery. Though now retired, his legacy endures, inspiring future marine geologists to pursue innovation and stewardship of our planet's invaluable marine ecosystems.

Close Up Radio recently featured Jesse Hunt, Jr. in a two-part interview with Doug Llewelyn on Monday, May 12th at 5pm EST and with Jim Masters on Monday, May 19th at 5pm EST

[Listen to the Podcast](#)

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For more information about Jesse Hunt, Jr., please visit <https://www.24-7pressrelease.com/press-release/521514/jesse-l-hunt-jr-commemorates-a-career-in-geology>

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