

IHO File No. S1/0402

CIRCULAR LETTER 44/2021
16 November 2021

FORMER IHO DIRECTOR CAPTAIN JAMES 'JIM' AYRES

Dear Hydrographer,

1. It is with great sadness that the IHO Secretariat has to announce the death of Captain (Ret.) James 'Jim' Ayres who passed away in Woodland Hills, California (United States of America), on 17 October 2021.
2. An obituary, posted by the Washington Post dated 14 November is below and it will also be published in the next issue of the International Hydrographic Review (IHR).

James Edward Ayres, Sr.

Our dear Captain has gone to his well-deserved sailor's rest, re-joining his beloved Joan after a long illness. He passed away peacefully at the age of 94 on Sunday, October 17, 2021, in Woodland Hills, California, surrounded by the love of his children. Born in Pasadena, California November 29, 1926, Jim grew up in Northern California and Oregon before enlisting in the Navy during WWII at the age of 17. After "accidentally" becoming a civil engineer through the Navy's V-12 program, he soon discovered his passion for Oceanography and Hydrography, which became the driving force behind the much-decorated military career he would carve out for himself over the next three decades. Upon his retirement from the Navy in 1977 with the rank of Captain, he was elected as a director of the International Hydrographic Bureau in Monte Carlo, Monaco, where he would serve two terms. It would be ten of the happiest years he and Joan would spend together. An officer, a gentleman, and a scholar, Jim's dedication and integrity were well-respected, while his unassuming charm and good-natured wit were well-known, be it at a game of boules with friends or at the Palais Princier, where he and Joan dined with Prince Rainier and Princess Grace. Upon returning to the U.S. in 1987, Jim assumed the role of Scientific Advisor for Hydrography for the Defence Mapping Agency before eventually retiring to care for his ailing bride up until her death in 2010. Jim is survived by his daughter, Laura; his son, Jimi; his grandchildren, Matthew, Isabel, and Will; and his loving extended family.

3. The IHO Secretariat offers its most sincere condolences to his family.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Mathias JONAS
Secretary-General