



In Memoriam

CHAULK, Clifford Graydon (Cliff) (1932 - 2011) Age: 79

UNTD CABOT 1949 U-14380



February 1, 1932 - December 16, 2011 LCdr Clifford Graydon Chaulk CD RCN (Ret'd) born 1 February 1932 at Maberly (Muddy Brook) Newfoundland of Christopher and Deborah (nee Tilley) Chaulk. Cliff passed away on 16 December 2011 and will be greatly missed by his wife of 56 years, Pamela, and daughters Sharon (Stan), Suzanne (Murray) and Tanya (Rob) and grandchildren Anastasia, Rebecca, Erin, Clifford and Sean. Cliff served in the Navy at sea and ashore for 26 years, followed by another 19 years still serving the Navy in hydrographic services as a public servant at National Defence HQ. There will not be a funeral or visitations. In lieu, his family will host his final RPC at the Bytown Naval Officers Mess, 78 Lisgar St, Ottawa at a later date. Donations to the Naval Officers Association of Canada Endowment Fund or to the Hospice at Maycourt, 114 Cameron Street, Ottawa would be appreciated. The family wishes to thank the staff at both the General Hospital and the Maycourt for the wonderful care that they provided Cliff. Published in The Ottawa Citizen from December 20 to December 22, 2011

Lieutenant-Commander Clifford Chaulk RCN (Retd) 1932-2011 It is fitting that Cliff has asked that his family hold a reception at the Bytown Mess in his remembrance. Although I first met Cliff when we were shipmates in "Maggie" it wasn't until my first posting to Ottawa in 1977 that our friendship grew. I remember that it was with some apprehension that I made my first visit to the Mess in May of that year. I need not have worried as the first person I ran into at the top of the stairs was Cliff. His welcome was very genuine and he bought me my first beer. Over the years Cliff took it on his own to ensure that anyone who came to the Mess and appeared a bit lost would be made to feel welcome. He believed in the brotherhood engendered by the Mess and I for one became one of his supporters. Much of the warm affection felt by many of you towards Cliff stems from being welcome there in the same manner as I was. For years he was a permanent fixture at the top of those stairs so much so that many of us thought that a plaque in his honour should have been embedded in the floor on the spot where he stood as a welcoming committee of one for so many years. When I retired in 1980 Cliff was already on his next brotherhood adventure. He was a firm believer in an active association of retired Naval Officers. I was soon to learn all about the NOAC and guess who was the branch Membership Chairman at the time, Cliff Chaulk. Well it wasn't long before I was recruited along with many others while he was responsible for expanding the branch membership. Under him the membership grew by over a hundred. He went on to be the President of the branch where he was instrumental in raising the funds for the initial printing of Volume One of Salty Dips. Cliff later went on to be the National President of the NOAC. Cliff also spent many years on the Mess Committee. I know of at least 3 multi-year stints that he did and there may have been more. He was instrumental in setting up at least 2 Mess sub-committees that I am aware of, the "History of Bytown Committee" and the "Elevator Committee". It is a fitting tribute to him that both committees achieved their objective. Cliff entered the realm of the "Sea Gulls" very early in his Mess life and once more continued in his recruiting ways which assured the growth and survival of that "institution". In the last few days Admiral Paul Madison was waiting for a call for a convenient time to visit Cliff and present him with a "Chief of Maritime Staff Commendation" for his outstanding work in support of Bytown over the years. It will now have to be presented posthumously. I can't recall any other Mess member ever being recognized in such a special way. We thank you Cliff and we will miss you.
Jake Freill

Cliff Chaulk was an officer and a gentleman. Indeed, he was that from the time he entered UNTD at Memorial University, one of the first recruits. He had a distinguished career in the Navy which he came to love as only a man of the sea can. He was an iconic leader for those of us who were younger members of the RCN and the RCN(R) and we sought his advice which was given unreservedly and accepted with gratitude for its wise content. But he was also a jolly tar as befits one who knows the perils and the glory of the great oceans. He knew the fear and love of the sea that only a coastal man can feel in his bones. After a painful final voyage he has found his holding ground in the bedrock of our hearts.
Bill Rompkey, Lt. RCN(R) (Retd)

WAC
December 15, 2017