

Obituary

Captain Victor A. Moitoret, U.S.N. (Retd.)

Captain Victor A. Moitoret USN (Retd.) a member of the Directing Committee of the IHB from 1967 to 1972, died in New Mexico, USA, on 19 January 2005. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1941 and subsequently attended the US Naval Postgraduate School. He saw active service during World War II in the Pacific Sector, aboard USS *Hornet* and USS *Princeton*. While aboard the former

ship she was torpedoed and sunk in 1942, near the Santa Cruz Islands. Moving then to the *Princeton*, on which he was navigator, the ship was badly damaged off the Philippines and had to be scuttled. After service on several naval vessels in the years after the war, he specialised in hydrography in 1949 and in 1950 served aboard the survey vessel, USS *Tanner*. In the period from 1950 to 1966 he served in a



variety of roles, including two tours of duty in London with Naval Intelligence. Between 1955 and 1957 he was Head of the Photo and Graphics Section of Naval Intelligence at the Pentagon. He then returned actively to hydrography, rising to Commander of the US Naval Oceanographic Office and Oceanographer of the Navy.

In 1967 he was elected as a member of the Directing Committee of the IHB and served for five years with Vice Admiral Chattel (France) and Captain Tegner (Denmark). In 1972 he attended the International Cartographic Conference in Ottawa and it was there that he enthused the author of this short obituary on international hydrography and marine cartography.

He had a particular interest in old fashioned printing, an interest that he had inherited from his parents and had a press delivered to Monaco during his time there. His large circle of friends regularly received his little newspaper, the Cemetery Rabbit,

when he had news to tell them and as his form of Christmas card. This publication was all typeset by hand and was most attractive.

He was a most active man and had many interests that he was able to pursue after he retired from Monaco. He taught science in La Plata Junior High School in Silver City, New Mexico, where he lived. He also acquired a Master's degree in Education and served as a Regent at the local university. He was a keen member of the local Audubon Society and involved in many community projects.

He had to cope with various serious illnesses in his family and looked after them with considerable care. He had a strong sense of heritage and was an active member of the American Legion.

In summary it may be said that his contributions to the navy, to hydrography and to his fellow citizens were notable and to this author personally, he was a most important mentor.