

## **Captain Michael Robert Robins**

Michael Robert Robins was born in East Sussex on September 4th. 1943 and, after grammar school, in 1948 he started his maritime career at Fairthorne Manor( on the river Hamble ) a YMCA administered facility affording educational training for aspiring seafarers.

After fifteen months, Mike started his apprenticeship aboard the 16,000 ton tanker "Eastgate" owned by Turnbull Scott and Co. remaining with that company until he obtained his Second Mate's Certificate in 1964. Shortly afterwards, he joined Bibby Line and rose through the ranks, eventually being appointed Master. His final command, before being made redundant in 1982 was "Herefordshire".

Later that year Mike joined the lecturing staff at The College of Maritime Studies, Warsash where he remained for many years, becoming an active member of The Nautical Institute - and a Cachalot. Thereafter, he branched out on his own into the world of commerce establishing a highly successful business marketing Transas Marine Simulators globally.

In 1996, Mike was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease and immediately volunteered to be the first patient in the UK to undertake an experimental brain operation. The operation was a total success in that it removed the physical symptoms (tremor) of this distressing disease and he became something of a "television personality" together with the surgeon who became his close friend.

In 2010, after losing his wife Eizabeth, he was diagnosed with bowel cancer necessitating another major operation but his indomitable spirit and love for life carried him through and, although he "found the stairs a struggle" we were privileged to welcome this very fine and brave man in our midst until shortly before he "Went Aloft" on November 15th. 2015.

The several moving eulogies delivered by his family members bore testimony to the love and admiration with which Mike was held.