**Capt. Richard W. Bridgeo Scholarship**

The last in a long family line of sea captains, Richard W. Bridgeo was a veteran, an avid sailor, an enthusiastic ice hockey player and fan, a world traveler and a proud Marbleheader with a distinguished 35-year maritime career, who was devoted to his family and lived life to the fullest.

A life-long resident of Marblehead who grew up around the waterfront, Dick was a Sea Scout as a boy and launch man for the Corinthian Yacht Club in high school. After graduating from Marblehead High School in 1941, he enrolled at Massachusetts Maritime Academy and began his 35-year maritime career on June 1, 1944, as a 20-year-old third mate onboard an army transport ship bound for Greenland.

From 1944-1979, Capt. Bridgeo logged well over 100 voyages and visited nearly every major port in the world, including trips to the USSR and Vietnam during the Cold War years. He fought off pirates in the Malacca Straits and made daring rescues of fallen shipmates in stormy seas. He was a firm, but fair leader among his men and they all understood that the captain’s word was law.

After being admitted to the Boston Marine Society in 1962, Capt. Bridgeo was granted veteran status in 1988 for his service during WWII. As the oldest living war veteran in Marblehead, Dick served proudly as Grand Marshall in the 2019 Memorial Day Parade.

His love of the sea was only paralleled by his love of ice hockey, and he cherished fond memories of his youth playing for the Barnegat Bruins against their rivals the Jersey Street AC at Bobby’s Pond. Dick could be found playing hockey at Redd’s Pond into his 80’s, and no one was more excited to see MHS capture its first State Hockey Championship in 2011.

With his vast knowledge of seaman’s knots and his hobby of building ships-in-a-bottle, Capt. Bridgeo’s true love for the sea and maritime lore was evident to all who knew him. He also enjoyed his time as a shallow water seaman, racing his Corinthian Class sailboat with family and friends during Marblehead’s Race Week.

Living to the age of 97, Dick’s retirement years were far longer than his professional career, and through shrewd investing, he accrued most of his wealth *after* retirement. Later in life he demonstrated great generosity by donating a large portion of his wealth to many charities, and he helped finance the college education of all four of his grandchildren.

When possible, the Capt. Richard Bridgeo Scholarship will be awarded to a student planning to attend Massachusetts Maritime Academy.