

The Final Voyage

They no longer hear the
calling of the watches,
or the falling of the storm
rain in the night.
Seas shall weary them
no more, for they
have reached their final haven
— their further shore.

OKEY R. BATCHELOR

Okey Batchelor steamed into the sunset on December 24, 2002 at the age of 79. A member since 1968, Brother Batchelor plied the waves over the next two decades carrying the MEBA banner en route to almost 18 years of pension credit. He came back from sea for the final time in 1988 after sailing with MEBA-contracted Energy Transportation. He was a resident of Swansboro, NC and is survived by his wife Mattie.

HAROLD W. BOGGS

Harold Boggs booked his final passage on December 10, 2002 at the age of 93. Brother Boggs started his seafaring career with the MEBA at the age of 58 collecting close to eight years of pension credit over the next 14 years before putting away his calipers in 1982. He was a resident of Tampa, FL and joins his wife Delma who died in 1992.

WOODY S. GILBERT

Woody Gilbert reached his final shore on August 4, 2002 at the age of 78. MEBA welcomed him into the fold on the first day of 1947 and stood by him for over forty years until he retired from the sea in 1989. He last sailed under MEBA contract for Lykes Brothers Steamship the year before his retirement. Brother Gilbert was a resident of Calera, AL and is survived by his nephew Larry Burcham.

SAMUEL GRIFFIN

The keys went silent for Samuel Griffin on February 8, 2003 at the age of 74. A member of District No. 3 - the Radio Officers' Union, Brother Griffin began his ROU career sailing in ship radio shacks in 1977 and continued his seagoing career over the next seventeen years. He last shipped out for Crowley American Transport before hanging up

his headset in 1994. He was a resident of New Bern, NC and is survived by his wife Virginia.

RALPH H. HAWKINSON

Ralph Hawkinson stood his final watch on June 13, 2002 at the age of 93. His was a well-deserved retirement that lasted nearly 40 years after he put away his wrenches in early 1963. Brother Hawkinson had called Shoreline, WA his home base and is survived by his wife Winifred.

HOWARD E. HENDSCH

Howard Hendsch sailed toward safe haven on February 23, 2003 at the age of 91. He signed up with the MEBA in 1942 and embarked on a long and colorful career that finally slowed down in the early 1980s with his retirement. Brother Hendsch last went to sea with MTL Sealift in 1981. He was a resident of Edmonds, WA and is survived by his son Robert and daughter Cynthia.

HARVEY W. JOHNSON

Harvey Johnson shipped off toward his final destination on January 19, 2002 at the age of 76. A longtime member, he plied the waves for many years until his retirement became official in 1972. Brother Johnson last sailed under MEBA contract for Alcoa Steamship in 1969. He was a resident of Chickasaw,

AL and is survived by his wife Geneva and his son Chuck.

RICHARD W. KELLOGG

Richard Kellogg sailed into the next life on May 23, 2002 at the age of 74. His was a career that began with the MEBA in 1974. Brother Kellogg was still an active member and was only nine days away from retirement status when he took his final rest. A resident of Mulkilteo, WA., he last went to sea with American President Lines in 1995. He is survived by his wife Charlotte.

BENEDETTO J. LEO

Benedetto Leo set course for calmer waters on November 17, 2002 at the age of 90. Shipping out of the New York hall, he accumulated over 15 years of pension credit before hanging up his calipers in 1976. Brother Leo was a resident of Carga Lake, NY.

KURT RUNOLFSSON

Kurt Runolfsson crossed the final bar on October 27, 2002 at the age of 82. In a productive career with the MEBA that lasted twenty years to the day, he picked up 19 years of pension credit before putting his boiler suit away in 1986. He last went to sea under MEBA contract with APL Tanker in 1985. Brother Runolfsson lived in Los Alamitos, CA and is survived by his wife Sally.

ROBERT J. ZIMMERMAN

Robert Zimmerman eased into the firmament on November 23, 2002 at the age of 79. A lengthy career with the MEBA formally concluded in 1973 after he amassed almost 22 years of pension credit. He last worked under MEBA contract performing night relief work for American President Lines in the mid-1960s. Brother Zimmerman was a resident of St. Augustine, FL and is survived by his wife Beatrice. ✕