

HYNES, Niles Raymond

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HYNES, Niles Raymond - Formerly of Dartmouth, died peacefully **August 4, 2007**, in Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital, Oakville, Ont., following a brief illness. He was born in Halifax on April 17, 1924, to Reginald Frederick Hayward Hynes, formerly of **Tilt Cove, N.L.**, and Eliza Jane (Jean) Huelin (Hynes), of Port-aux-Basques, N.L. He was the firstborn child of the marriage, and the first one of a family of four sons. His several careers spanned six decades.

In the Second World War, he served as a marine engineer on ships sheltering in Halifax Harbour, working long shifts to refit them for sea duty. From 1944 he sailed as an engineer onboard the tanker *S.S. Point Peelee Park* and other Imperial Oil tankers, carrying fuel oil to ports in both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Then, for several years following the end of the war, he oversaw the disposal of Canadian navy ships which had been mothballed by the War Assets Corporation in Shelburne Harbour. He married his wife, the late Catherine Muriel "*Betty*" Wright, in 1946. When the Shelburne posting ended, he joined the staff of Fairey Aviation Ltd., in Eastern Passage, where he rose to the position of Vice-President. He represented Fairey Aviation in federal government defense contracts, notably the supply of hydraulics for the Canadian-made fighter aircraft CF-100. While with Fairey Aviation, his hands-on approach to management resulted in a flight in a CF-100 with famed test pilot Janus Zurakowski at the controls.

He and Betty lived for a time in Ottawa where Niles served as the Fairey Aviation representative to the Canadian government. Their only child, Liana, was born in Halifax on March 11, 1948. Retiring from Fairey Aviation in 1969, Niles and Betty traveled to Europe and acquired an extensive property on the Costa del Sol in Spain near the village of Mijas. The property contained five villas, which Niles developed and marketed over a period of time. He learned Spanish and became a well-known figure in Mijas. He also became President of the British Society located in the area, and he and Betty began a lifelong affair in Spain with the game of golf.

Seeking yet another challenge in 1976, Niles joined the staff of International Housing Limited, (IHL, an E.P. Taylor company), in Lagos, Nigeria, where the company built specially-designed concrete housing in many villages in the country. He continued with IHL, moving from Spain to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where he became Vice-President of the firm representing their interests abroad. He and Betty lived for a time in Hong Kong in the development of IHL's business in China. Niles and Betty returned to their roots in 1987, acquiring a property in Lake Echo where both became members of the Grandview Golf Club. Niles also became a member of the Lake Echo Lions' Club where he served proudly and spearheaded the committee responsible for the replacement of the Lake Echo Recreation Centre.

Niles was a "*Life Member*" of the Lions' Club at the time of his passing. Niles was also an adventurer. He took to the sea and its dangers without fear. In 1947, at the request of a New York investor, he was the engineer on a pair of ocean-going tugs, purchased from War Assets, and being delivered from Shelburne to Laurencio Marques in East Africa. As the tugs alternated tows to

conserve enough fuel for the transfer across the Atlantic, a severe storm parted the tow line, resulting in a need for many innovative decisions, on very rough seas, to re-establish the tow and still manage to successfully complete the delivery of the vessels on time! Niles was also a self-taught and highly competitive sailing skipper, acquiring the New York "30" 42 ft racing sloop "*Linnet*" which he raced in both harbour and ocean competitions. Then he became known as an avid skipper of *Sambro Light* while he was Commodore of the Bedford Basin Yacht Club in 1969.

One of Niles' most recent cherished adventures and memories was a trip to visit Joe, his brother-in-law, and Lynn, where he had the tremendous enjoyment of skippering Joe's Yacht "*Goose*", from Pacific Playgrounds around the island of Mittenatch and serving as a dignitary with Commodore Joe Wright during the sail past for the Campbell River Yacht Club annual regatta. "*It was great to have the tiller in hand again!*" he said.

Throughout his life, Niles made many friends and contacts. He maintained a list of people he'd met all over the world and made the claim he could find someone to share a drink or dinner with in any city in the world!

Niles' wife, Betty, predeceased him in 2001, after 55 years of a loving marriage. He is survived by his only child, daughter, Liana (Brian Heaney); his grandchildren, Pamela Jane (Greg) Becker, San Diego, Calif.; Jennifer Christine Heaney, Toronto, Ont.; Brian Niles Bernard (Denise La-Marche) Heaney, Atlanta, Ga.; great-grandchildren, Bennett, Katie and Matthew Heaney, Atlanta, Ga.; Kyle and Tyler Becker, San Diego, Calif.; brothers, Warwick (Lynette), Perth, Ont.; David (Doris, deceased), Lake Echo, and Peter (Carol), Truro. During his lifetime, Niles was very close to Betty's family, sister, Doll, her husband Jerry Baillie and their daughters Lynn and Cathy, Dartmouth; brother-in-law, Joe and Lynn Wright, Campbell River, B.C., and Joe's children, Stephen, Michael, Rebecca and Joseph Niles.

Niles was a lover of music and literature, and in his latter years showed appreciation of the poet Minnie Louise Haskins, and her poem "*The Gate of the Year*": "*I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year 'Give me a light that I may tread softly into the unknown.' And he replied, 'Go into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God that shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!'*"

Niles will be missed greatly by all, but cherished and remembered for his adventuresome spirit and unrelenting love for family and friends. Memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

<http://ngb.chebucto.org/Newspaper-Obits/halifax-herald-2007-aug.shtml>