

**David T. Humphries, O.L.S.**  
**August 6<sup>th</sup> 1924 – August 3<sup>rd</sup> 2006**  
**Written with love by his wife, Heather Humphries**



David was born in Ilford, Essex, England, the eldest child of Welsh parents, Dagmer and Arthur Humphries. He was educated at the Beale Grammar School, Ilford.

In 1942 he joined the Royal Navy and served on a destroyer, H.M.S. Wensleydale, on convoy duty. In 1944, he transferred to the Fleet Air Arm and pilot training brought him to Canada, to Kingston, Ontario where he earned his wings and met his future wife, Heather. On his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, August 6<sup>th</sup> 1945, when his squadron was about to leave for the Far East, “the bomb” was dropped.

After the war, he returned to Kingston and articulated to the late Campbell T. Smith, O.L.S. He was commissioned an O.L.S. on September 10<sup>th</sup> 1948, and on October 1<sup>st</sup> 1948 he opened his own practice. In 1953 he was joined by Allen R. Burgham, O.L.S. (also a former Fleet

Air Arm pilot) and they formed Humphries & Burgham O.L.S. David continued his part time instructing in the surveying course at Queen’s University.

Both David and Allen were active in the R.C.N. Reserve Naval Air Squadron VC 921. David loved flying. He eventually retired from the Naval Reserve as a Lt. Commander (R). In October, 1957 he had a serious accident – a fall down a cliff caused complications and an 18-month recovery period.

David was active in St. Margaret’s United Church, serving on the Board of Stewards, and as an Elder.

He was always very interested in O.L.S. affairs – he didn’t miss an Annual Meeting from 1949 to the early 90’s (except for the two years when he was recovering from his accident). In the Sixties he became very involved in the Association. He was a member of Council 1967 – 1969 and was elected Vice President and then served as President in 1970. At this time he was very interested in the plan to extend membership in the Association to those of associated disciplines. Throughout the Seventies he was a member of many committees. He found working with Fred Pearce on the University Liaison Committee especially satisfying.

The practice of Humphries & Burgham Ltd. was a busy one – concentrating on Kingston and the surrounding areas and cottage country to the north. In 1987 David and Allen decided it was

time to retire and their practice was taken over by Grange Elliott O.L.S. David was glad to ease into retirement by working part-time for this firm.

By 1992 he was fully retired, and he thoroughly enjoyed his retirement. Summers were spent at the cottage at Bob's Lake , and many holiday trips were enjoyed. We became great fans of bus tours, and "saw the world".

All through his retirement his health was good and he was very active. He was looking forward to seeing O.L.S. friends in mid July, but on July 1<sup>st</sup> he had a massive heart attack. By-pass surgery was unsuccessful, and he passed away on August 3<sup>rd</sup> 2006, three days before his 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday and two months before our 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.

He was very much loved by his four daughters – Ruth McArthur, Jane Halliday, Anne Cooper and Mary Assilin and he was very proud of his five grandchildren.