

In Memoriam



Vance R. Wanner

Commander, U.S. Navy (Retired)
Executive Secretary, MORS
1963 -1977

With the advent of the 11th MORS hosted at the U.S. Naval Academy in the Spring of 1963, Vance Wanner, as President of the Operational Logic Corporation, joined the MORS Executive Committee to provide the essential working force for the operations. Vance provided support through contractual arrangements with the ONR Sponsor until, following the 17th MORS, the Executive Committee phased itself out of existence and incorporated as the Military Operations Research Society, a full-fledged national society under the laws of the State of Virginia.

Vance was appointed Executive Secretary of the new society and ably held the position until his demise on May 12, 1977.

During his tenure and association with MORS, the meetings have grown from 248 attendees with almost 70 papers and reports to the present meeting with a prospective attendance in excess of 800 and some 50 general session papers and 250 working group presentations.

Vance graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1943 with the accelerated Class of '44 and reported aboard the USS Mississippi for wartime duty. With the cessation of hostilities, he was selected for submarine service.

Upon completion of submarine school, he served at sea in a series of submarines: Cuck, Pollack, Capitaine, Executive Officer of Archerfish, and Commanding Officer of the Manta and Picuda. On shore duty, he taught chemistry at the Naval Academy, held the position of Submarine Advisor to the Turkish Navy, and served at ONR under Marshall Yovits, the early sponsor of MORS.

Vance retired from the Navy on June 30, 1962 and subsequently incorporated Operational Logic. Creative, innovative, always waking up with new ideas, he kept Operational Logic active throughout his association with MORS. He earned his Masters at George Washington University and held patents related to his thesis on a data retrieval system and other subjects ranging to portable tents adaptable to any kind of terrain.

Vance leaves his wife Susie, the former Susie Walder, whom he married January 12, 1952, and four children: Susan Kristine, Cum Laude, Wake Forest; Sarah Louise, Honors, William & Mary; Samuel Harrison, Junior at VPI; and Christopher Jackson, Sophomore at Fort Hunt High School.

At the wedding of his oldest daughter, Vance presented a toast which, quite fittingly, with little imagination, describes his relationship with MORS.

"May they always be useful to each other. May they always be a source of pleasure to each other. But, above all, may each of them be most worthy of the deepest admiration and affection of the other because of what they are and what they do—even if their destiny is among God's smaller sparrows."

-Walter E. Muller
George Washington University