

**DETROIT LODGE NO. 7  
INTERNATIONAL SHIPMASTERS' ASSOCIATION  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN**

August 15, 2000

TO: MEMBERS OF DETROIT LODGE NO. 7

Subject: Capt. Morgan L. Howell -- ISMA Pennant Number 10098

I regret to inform you that Captain Morgan Howell passed away early this morning August 15, 2000, in Port Huron at the age of 96.

Morgan was a longtime member of Detroit Lodge No. 7, having joined the lodge on February 23, 1960. He held one of the largest U.S. Coast Guard licenses on record, which included pilotage for many harbors and rivers throughout the United States. When renewing his license in the late 1980's, he had the honor of having it signed by then President George Bush. Although he continued to sail on various vessels into the 1980's, Morgan is well known as being the Captain of the S/S Aquarama, which was under his command for many years. In recent years, he was a student at St. Clair County Community College, where he earned five degrees since beginning classes in the fall of 1982.

Visitation will be on Thursday, August 17, from 2-4 PM and 7-9 PM at the Frederick Funeral Home, 214 Trumbull, St. Clair, MI (810-329-4222).

Church services will be held in Brantford, Ontario on Saturday, August 19 at 1:00 pm. One of Morgan's last requests was to have uniformed ISMA members serve as pallbearers at his funeral. Anyone who is able to help in this regard is urged to telephone Captain Pat Owens (810-364-8374) as soon as possible. Morgan's widow Emilie has asked Pat to coordinate this.

Fraternally yours,  
Paul M. Jagenow  
Secretary-Treasurer

TOMORROW'S  
WEATHER  
PARTLY SUNNY  
75° 53°  
4-DAY FORECAST, 2A ▶

# TIMES HERALD

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PORT HURON, MICHIGAN

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## INSIDE TODAY



## Sailor's stories still echo to family, friends

By AMBER HUNT  
Times Herald

**ST. CLAIR** — A ship captain whose more than 70 years at sea included a stint as the pilot of Jacques Cousteau's famed *Calypso* and time in one of Fidel Castro's jails, died Tuesday.

Capt. Morgan Llewellyn Howell was 96.

In the 1980s, he was arrested by the Cubans on

suspicion of smuggling weapons into the country. He worked for Mr. Cousteau in 1982.

Friends and family of Capt. Howell say it's difficult to pinpoint what they'll miss most about him.

"It's his kindness, his warmth, the glint in his eye," said Thomas Mooney, a professor at St. Clair County Community Col-

lege, where Capt. Howell studied for more than a decade and receive four associate degrees.

"I can feel the tears now," Dr. Mooney said. "I just miss his total presence."

Capt. Howell, of St. Clair, died Tuesday in the nursing home where he had lived for the past six months. His wife, Emelie Fritz Howell, said he became sick several

months ago and had slowly lost his strength.

A veteran of more than 72 years at sea, Capt. Howell was a longtime fixture on the community college campus, where he began taking classes in his 80s. He received more associate degrees from the college than anyone else in its history.

He often told stories of

his days on the water and even recounted some of them in the school's newspaper.

"He was an amazing storyteller," Dr. Mooney said. "He was interviewed for his 92nd birthday, and he told story upon story about being in Fidel Castro's jail and stories of the sea."

Capt. Howell's second See HOWELL, 2A ▶



Times Herald file photo  
Capt. Morgan Howell

## HOWELL: Local sailor had many stories to tell

▶ Continued from Page 1A

wife said he amassed an impressive nautical record.

"He had the most licenses of any mariner in the nation, and probably the world," said Mrs. Howell, who married the captain in 1996, two years after the death of his first wife, Grace.

At the time of his remarriage, Capt. Howell had been taking college courses for several years. It was his insatiable desire to learn that kept him coming back to classes, said Dr. Christa Adams, the college's president.

"He was still a student here up until last fall," Dr. Adams said. "He was a perpetual student. He was always in school, and all last year he kept saying, 'I'm going to get back into classes.'"

“ He was a ship's captain right until the end.”

JUDY BOYER-MORRIS, a friend of Capt. Morgan Howell

Ms. Adams said Capt. Howell was the definition of a gentleman.

"He would call me, and he would always greet me with, 'Madam President, this is the captain speaking.' That was always his entry into a conversation with me.

"I'll miss those phone calls."

Judy Boyer-Morris worked at the college for several years while Capt. Howell was a stu-

dent. She said he had a thirst for learning, but said he was a sea pilot first and a student second. His articles published in the school's *Erie Square Gazette* were tales of his voyages.

"That was always the focus — when he was on the Great Lakes on the ships," she said. "He was a ship's captain right until the end."

He also wrote articles for the *Times Herald*.

Capt. Howell, who was born in Ontario in 1903, became an American citizen in 1930. He achieved pilot status in 1959 with the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

In 1996, he was honored by the International Shipmasters Association with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Capt. Howell is survived by his wife, as well as his sister Lucille Morris of Burlington, Ontario; stepdaughter Carol Benedict of Grand Rapids; three step-grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Visitation is 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. today in the L.C. Friederichs and Son Funeral Home in St. Clair. Funeral services are Saturday in Ontario.

## OBITUARIES

## Morgan Howell: Captain sailed the world's seas

By DAN SHINE  
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

After more than 72 years at sea, Capt. Morgan Howell had plenty of good stories. Like the time he was arrested and accused of running guns during the Cuban Revolution. He was released the next day.

Or the time he piloted Jacques Cousteau's ship, Calypso, when the famous Frenchman studied the wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald in frigid Lake Superior.

"I would receive notes from him all the time," said the Rev. Richard Ingalls of Mariners' Church in Detroit. "He might be in the Great Lakes or he might be somewhere around the world."

Capt. Howell died Tuesday at Faith Medical Care Center in St. Clair of congestive heart failure. He was 96.

The captain was honored by the International Shipmasters Association with the Lifetime Achievement Award in 1996. The group recognized him as having the most complete Master License ever attained by an American, meaning he was authorized to pilot ships in more bodies of water than anyone else in the United States. Three of his licenses were signed by presidents Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan and George Bush.

He was born on a farm in St. George, Ontario, but decided early on that farming wasn't in his blood, his wife, Emelie Howell, said. He moved to the Detroit area and became a U.S. citizen in 1930. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

Capt. Howell married his first

wife, Grace White, in 1936. She died in 1994. He married Emelie Fritz, a friend for more than 30 years, in 1996.

When he wasn't at sea — which was most of the time — Capt. Howell lived in Detroit and Birmingham. In the late 1970s, he moved to St. Clair.

He was certified as a captain in 1941 and received his pilot's license in 1959. He was still working aboard ships into his 80s.

"He was peppery," Ingalls said. "He was a small man physically, but had unlimited energy. He had done so much, but he never fully retired. He was a perpetual student."

Capt. Howell earned five associate's degrees — in arts, business, English literature, science and geophysics — and was still taking classes at St. Clair Community College while in his 90s, his family said.

He was a member of the Shipmasters Association of Detroit-Lodge No. 7, the St. George Masonic Lodge and the British Royal Society of Navigators.

Besides his wife, Capt. Howell is survived by a sister, stepdaughter and stepgrandchildren.

Visitation will be 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. today at L.C. Friederichs & Son Funeral Home, 214 Trumbull in St. Clair.

A funeral will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at Beckett & Glaves Funeral Home in Brantford, Ontario. Burial will follow in St. George Cemetery in St. George, Ontario.

Contact DAN SHINE at 313-223-4554 or [dshine@freepress.com](mailto:dshine@freepress.com).

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## OBITUARIES

## Capt. Morgan Howell, noted master mariner

By Kim Kozlowski  
The Detroit News

**ST. CLAIR** — Capt. Morgan Llewellyn Howell, a 72-year veteran of the sea, died Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2000, of congestive heart failure at Faith Nursing Home in St. Clair. He was 96.

Born in St. George, Ontario, Capt. Howell became a U.S. citizen in April 1930. Six years later he married Grace White and they remained married until her death in 1994.

Capt. Howell earned his captain's title in 1941 during his service in World War II and pilot status in 1959 when the St. Lawrence Seaway opened.

The International Shipmasters Association presented him with the Lifetime Achievement Award in 1996, lauding him as the sea captain who holds the most complete Master License ever attained by an American mariner.

He was qualified to sail more navigable waters than anyone else in the world.

His exciting career brought him in the face of death more than once. He saw ships blown up during WWII convoy duty. He also navigated a ship through a storm in the Great Lakes that claimed the Edmund Fitzgerald.

One of the highlights of his career was piloting the ship-of-friend Jacques Cousteau's "Calypso."

"He's a legend," said his second wife, Emelie, whom Mr. Howell married in 1996. "He was very well-known."

Capt. Howell was also one of the oldest students at St. Clair Community College. He graduated five times,

with degrees in subjects such as science, journalism and geography.

"He loved it," Mrs. Howell said. "He was always wanting to learn more."

Besides his second wife, survivors include his sister Lucille Morris, stepdaughter Carol Benedict, three step-grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. today at L.C. Friederichs and Son Funeral Home, 214 Trumbull, St. Clair.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Beckett-Glaves Family Funeral Center, 88 Brant, Brantford, Ontario. Burial will be in St. George Cemetery in Ontario.

Memorials may be made to Detroit Mariners Church, 170 E. Jefferson, Detroit, 48226 or the First Congregational Church, 300 Adams, St. Clair, 48079.



**Mr. Howell**