

## **Andre Galerne 1926 – 2008 in Memoriam**

Born in 1926, in Paris, France, Andre was recruited into the French underground while the German forces occupied France during World War II, and later attended l'Ecole Technique d' Aeronautique et de Construction Automobile. In 1952, he founded SOGETRAM, Society General de Travaux Marine et Fluviaux one of the world's first international firms of professional diving in industrial work. Using the Aqua Lung (SCUBA), and light diving helmets, this firm revolutionized the underwater industry.

In 1959, Andre left France to start IUC (International Underwater Contractors) Canada in Montreal, and in 1962, immigrated to the United States where he formed International Underwater Contractors, Inc., serving as President until 1993. In 1970, he began IUC International to service the off shore oil industry and in 1978, Deep Sea International to operate marine vessels, submersibles, and ROV's for the same industry.

Andre is credited with starting several professional diving schools, several hyperbaric treatment facilities and holds four U.S. Patents on methodology and equipment advances in the industry. He holds Honors with appointments as Knight of the "French Legion de Honor" for his service in WWII and belongs to the following organizations; ADCI (Former President), Marine Technology Society (Former Vice-President), The Moles, National Ocean Industries Association (Former Director), Undersea Medical and Hyperbaric Society, Naval Submarine League, and others.

Andre Galerne is the recipient of 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Lockheed Award (1981), Special Commendation for Improvement of Safety and Training Practices from the Diving Industry by NOIA (1983), Lowell Thomas Explorer's Club Award (1986), New York Academy of Science Sea Award for achievement in Science and Technology (1989), The NOGI Award by the Underwater Society of America (1988), in 1995 the Association of Diving Contractors modified their rules, for one time only, to award to a Board Member the John Galletti Memorial Award and as such is now a member of the Association of Diving Contractors International Hall of Fame.

Andre was involved at the very inception of this organization and held the position of President of the ADCI Board of Directors of in 1989 and 1990.

His passing leaves a void in the Commercial Diving Industry. He will be missed.