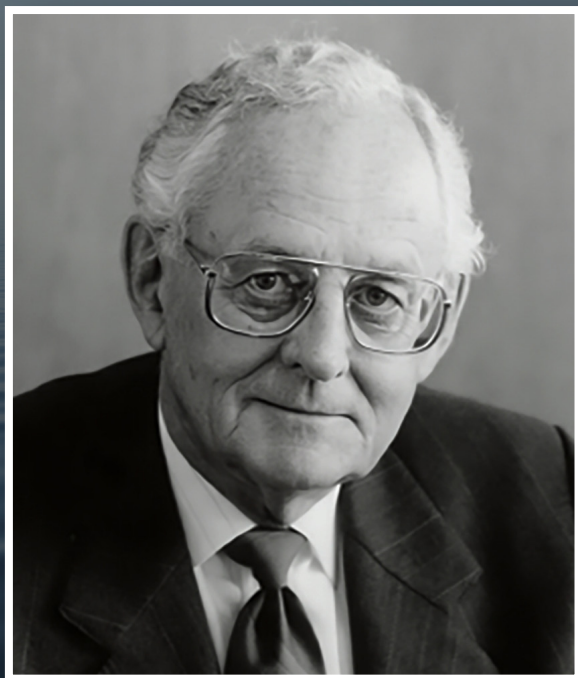


In memory of  
**Mr. William O'Neil**  
IMO Secretary-General Emeritus



*Secretary-General of IMO from 1990 to 2003*

*“Mr. O’Neil was a great friend and mentor who made a huge personal contribution to securing globally applicable safety, security and environmental standards”*

IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim

Mr. O'Neil's tenure as Secretary-General spanned a period of great changes and challenges to which he applied his quiet diplomacy, leading to key developments in safety, the environment and security from which the maritime world continues to benefit.

He personally requested IMO Member States to address safety concerns, particularly around bulk carriers and large passenger ships, and he established a team of experts to look into ro-ro safety, following the tragic sinking of the *Estonia* ro-ro ferry in 1994.

Protecting the environment was a paramount concern for him. He oversaw the adoption in 1997 of the Protocol to the MARPOL Convention, which included Annex VI on Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships – which went on to form the basis of our current energy efficiency requirements. He also oversaw revisions to MARPOL to accelerate the phase out of single hull tankers in the wake of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill.

He had a passion for protecting marine biodiversity, laying the foundations for measures to prevent the spread of potentially harmful aquatic species in ships' ballast water that led to the IMO treaty on ballast water management being adopted in 2004. His drive and influence were especially evident after the September 11, 2001 attacks, when his leadership prompted development of a new maritime security regime, adopted in less than one year.

Mr. O'Neil was equally concerned about operating standards and seafarer competence, with the introduction of the International Safety Management (ISM) Code and the 1978 revisions to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, among other IMO achievements under his stewardship.

He also established The Seafarers Memorial Fund to pay for the landmark public memorial to seafarers outside IMO's Headquarters in London. It stands as a monument not only to the world's seafarers, but also to Mr. O'Neil's appreciation and acknowledgement of the human element in shipping. It is and will always remain a fitting tribute to a humble but effective man, diplomat and Secretary-General.

