

## **Dr David Thomas Pugh OBE, 1943-2022.**

### **Tribute at IOC 32<sup>nd</sup> Assembly by Professor Edward Hill CBE, UK**

1. David Thomas Pugh was born in Liverpool on 13 July 1943 and his Welsh parents raised him in the village of Trefnanney, Wales. He studied at University College London and obtained his PhD in Geodesy and Geophysics from Cambridge University in 1968.
2. In 1969 he moved to Bidston Observatory near Liverpool where he undertook sea-level research, developed the first 'bubbler tide gauge' and became Director of the Permanent Service for Mean Sea Level the global data bank of mean sea levels from 2,000 sites worldwide. He and Klaus Wyrtki were instrumental in persuading the IOC to establish the Global Sea Level Observing System (GLOSS) with David its first Chair.
3. In 1984, David became Head of Oceanography, Hydrology and Meteorology at the UK's Natural Environment Research Council and he wrote his famous book *Tides Surges and Mean Sea Level* published in 1987 and followed by his books *Changing Sea Levels* in 2004 and *Sea Level Science* with Phil Woodworth in 2014.
4. David became secretary of the UK Inter-agency Committee for Marine Science & Technology and led pioneering analyses of the contribution of marine industries to UK GDP. He was appointed Officer of the British Empire (OBE) by Queen Elizabeth II in 2003.
5. David was committed to the importance of international cooperation. He led the UK delegation to IOC and became Vice-Chair and then Chair of IOC from 2003-2007. He contributed much to the planning of the IOC's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2010, for which he co-edited with Geoff Holland the book *Troubled Waters* which traced the history of the IOC and the challenges it then faced. He

worked closely with Executive Secretary, the late Patricio Bernal who's life we also remember today.

6. During David's tenure as Chair, the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami occurred and the IOC was asked to coordinate creation of tsunami warning systems for the Indian Ocean, Caribbean, Northeast Atlantic and Mediterranean; since the 1960s, IOC had coordinated the successful Pacific tsunami warning system.
7. Also during David's tenure the UN established a regular assessment for the global marine environment and he ensured IOC had a leadership role in the first phase of the Assessment of Assessments.
8. In retirement, David continued work analysing very long-term sea level records in the Southern Hemisphere, he measured tides in Loch Ness in Scotland and seiches in various places, and advised on developing a sea level monitoring network in Ireland.
9. David was a fine and humorous companion and could be relied upon for wise advice. He loved travel; wildlife photography; playing golf, watching Cricket and supporting Everton Football Club. He died suddenly on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022 whilst walking in his native Wales. He is survived by his wife, Carole, and son, Gareth. Many friends and colleagues across the world miss him and remember him fondly.