



Victor G. Burrell
Honored Life Member

Dr. Victor (Vic) G. Burrell, Jr. has been a member of the National Shellfisheries Association (NSA) for over 30 years and served as its president from 1982–1983. He was born in Wilmington, NC in 1925 and served in the U.S. Navy during WW II from 1943–1946. He received a B.S. degree in English from the College of Charleston in 1949. In 1965, after 15 years in his family's meat-packing business, he went on to earn both Master's Degree and a Ph.D. Degree in Marine Science from the College of William and Mary in 1968 and 1972, respectively. In large part, this interest may have been kindled through his experiences operating a charter boat in South Carolina and working part time in the commercial oyster industry. While a student at Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), he served as the liaison to the fishing industry, especially with oystermen. At that time, he developed a method of denaturing the red algal-derived seasonal color of oysters using the blower system.

In 1972, he left the staff of the VIMS and returned to the Carolinas as an Associate Marine Scientist with the then just established Division of Marine Resources in Charleston. He spent from 1972 to 1991 at the Marine Resources Research Institute (MRRI) of the Division of Marine Resources, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (then the Wildlife and Marine Resources Department). He served as the Institute's Director from 1974 to 1991, "retiring" in 1991. Since then, he has continued to take an active role in South Carolina's marine resources, including co-authoring numerous scientific and lay review publications for NOAA and the DNR as an emeritus director and scientist at Fort Johnson. In total, he has published over 65 scientific papers on zooplankton ecology, shellfish biology, and oyster culture. These include a series for NOAA in 1996–1997 entitled "The History, Present Condition, and Future of the Molluscan Fisheries of North and Central America and Europe, Volumes 1–3, with Clyde Mackenzie and others. In 2000, he authored a DNR educational report entitled "The Recreational Fishery in South Carolina: the Little River Story," reviewing the first organized offshore recreational fishing industry in South Carolina. He is also currently writing a history of South Carolina's oyster industry for publication.

During his leadership at MRRI, Dr. Burrell saw the staff double to about fifty professional individuals, including eleven Ph.D-level marine scientists. In addition to his active participation in the NSA, Dr. Burrell served also as president of the Southeastern Estuarine Research Society (SEERS) and was named an honorary life member of SEERS. He served as president of the College of Charleston Alumni Association and was honored as the college's Alumnus of the Year in 1963. He also saw the development and construction of the SC Aquarium serving on the executive board of the aquarium as a founding member.

He is listed in Community Leaders of America, Personalities of the South, American Men and Women of Science, International Directory of Distinguished Leadership, Who's Who in the South and Southwest, Who's Who in America, and Men of Achievement. He recently moved to new digs and we will miss him walking along the road tipping his hat and waving his hand as he traveled daily to MRRI from his James Island house. However, we still expect to see him almost daily in his office (when he is not taking a vacation

cruise) chatting with everyone and being the gentleman that he is. He is an aficionado of big band swing and jazz, particularly that from the Depression era through post-war periods. We remember his enjoyment of Ken Burn's "Jazz" and discussed with him the pros and cons of Burn's choice of influential "characters," such as Louis Armstrong. He's knowledgeable enough about the music and musicians of that era to do a creditable history. He's been an active member of St. James Episcopal on James Island for many years, serving as Junior and Senior Warden on several occasions.

Vic and his wife Katherine have four children, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

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