

Biographical Sketch

Theodore Robert Mettlach (1951-2011)

Theodore ‘Ted’ Mettlach was an oceanographer and American Meteorological Society certified meteorologist who is best known for his work supporting the Fleet as a Meteorology/Oceanography Officer, enhancing the Navy Standard Surf Model, and completing research studies for the National Data Buoy Center. He was an active member of the Marine Technology Society and presented numerous technical papers during his career, even teaching a short course on Ocean Wave Measurement and Analysis during the 2009 MTS/IEEE Oceans conference.

After completing enlisted service as a sonar operator and a search and rescue swimmer with the United States Navy, Mettlach attended Florida State University earning a Bachelor of Science degree in meteorology during 1979. He was commissioned and trained as a Meteorology/Oceanography Officer by the U.S. Navy. While serving on active duty, he was transferred to the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, where he completed a Master of Science degree in Meteorology and Oceanography during 1985. Following service as the staff oceanographer for Commander, Joint Task Force, Middle East in the Persian Gulf during Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM, Lieutenant Commander Mettlach resigned his regular commission. He subsequently worked on several assignments as a naval reservist before retiring as a Commander in 2001.

Following military service, Mettlach took a faculty position with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and then transferred to Computer Sciences Corporation during 1991 to work on projects with the National Data Buoy Center. During 1995, Mettlach joined Neptune Sciences, Inc. and became the “go-to” person for the Navy Standard Surf Model, which is a model found in the Geophysics Fleet Mission Program Library. Noteworthy accomplishments included Mettlach’s documentation of Navy Standard Surf Model software and its subsequent validation for operational use by Marines and Sailors.

In 2005, Mettlach joined Science Applications International Corporation as a Senior Environmental Scientist, where he supported the National Data Buoy Center as a Chief Scientist. His efforts crossed many technology areas from buoy design and data quality control to conducting studies on detecting tsunamis and understanding climate change. In his capacity as a scientist with the NDBC, Mettlach made significant contributions to the development of ocean observing systems.

Theodore R. Mettlach was a prolific writer and published more than 50 articles; many are frequently cited in scientific papers.

Theodore Mettlach Scholarship Fund

The Ocean Waves Workshop is dedicated to the accomplishments of Mr. Theodore Robert Mettlach. If interested in donating to the Theodore Mettlach Scholarship Fund, please make your gift payable to the University of New Orleans Foundation. The address is: UNO Foundation, 2021 Lakeshore Drive, Suite 420, New Orleans, LA 70122. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Foundation at telephone 504-280-2800.