



since 1961

Baltica

BALTICA Volume 35 Number 1 June 2022: 89–90

IN MEMORIAM

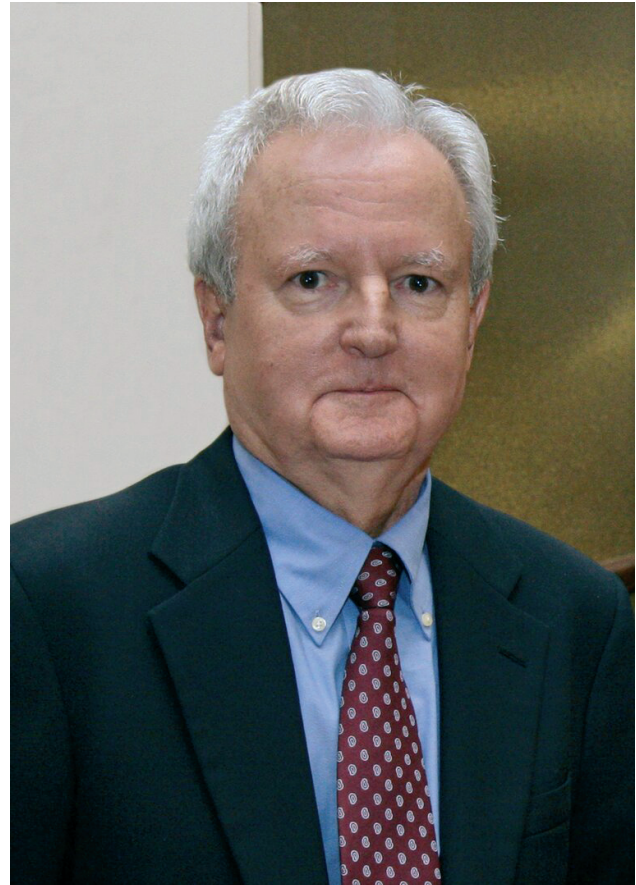
Farewell to Professor Viktoras Vytautas Klemas

(01 09 1934 – 24 04 2022)

This spring we lost a good friend and a member of the Scientific Committee of BALTICA journal, Prof. Dr. Viktoras Vytautas Klemas. He was Professor Emeritus at the University of Delaware's College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment in the United States of America, Foreign Member of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, and Honorary Doctor at Klaipeda University.

Viktoras Vytautas was born on 1 September 1934 in Klaipeda Seaport city, Lithuania. During the Second World War he with parents withdrew from Lithuania to Germany and after the war moved to the United States of America. He studied and finished the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (in 1957 B.S./Electrical Engineering, in 1959 M.S./Electrical Engineering/Physics). In 1965, he received a doctorate in Optical Physics from the University of Braunschweig in Germany. V. V. Klemas was Optical Physicist in GE Valley Forge Space Centre (1965–1971) and joined the University of Delaware faculty in 1971. From 1979, he was a professor (later Professor Emeritus) of Marine Studies at University of Delaware. He directed University of Delaware's Applied Ocean Science Programme in 1981–1998, also was a founder and director of the Centre for Remote Sensing of this University for more than 30 years.

The area of V.V. Klemas' scientific interests includes oceanology, coastal ecosystems and processes by using advanced remote sensing techniques, investigations of wetland health, estuarine pollution and coastal dynamics, and remote sensing of global environmental change. He published about 400 scientific papers of peer-reviewed journals and a monograph *Remote Sensing and Global Environmental Change* (2011). He was a Principal Investigator on 32 coastal projects in 11 countries, a consultant of NASA, NOAA, EPA, USGS, USACE, UNESCO, an organizer of US/EU Baltic Sea Symposiums (from 2004) in the Baltic Sea countries, a lecturer or programme chair at 78 international conferences, served on seven scientific committees of the National Research Council of Academy of Sciences (U.S.A.). One of the most important activities was related to ocean research and professional activities in NASA – from 2004 he



was a member of the NOAA/NASA Coastal Ocean Applications and Science Team, which is designing new satellite systems for coastal observations. Scientific achievements of V. V. Klemas were judged by a number of awards, including the Prize of Lithuanian Ministry of Education and Science in 2009 for marine scientific achievements and dissemination of experience in Lithuania. He was a member of editorial boards of several scientific journals: *Wetlands Ecology and Management*, *Journal of Coastal Research*, *Baltica*, *Remote Sensing of Environment*, *Sensor Review*, *Geocarto International*, *Environmental Research, Engineering and Management*.

Professor V.V. Klemas was very closely associated with Lithuania and its research institutions since the restoration of independent status of the country in 1991. He was a member of the Restorative Sen-

ate of Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, helped organize and presented three World Symposia of Lithuanian Science and Creativity in Chicago, gave lectures at Klaipeda University and Vilnius Gediminas Technical University. From 2007, he was elected a Foreign Member of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, and in 2008 he became a member of Scientific Committee of BALTICA journal.

Prof. Dr. V. V. Klemas had a special very warm relationship with scientists of his native city – with Klaipeda University. Professor helped strengthen Lithuanian marine sciences at Klaipeda University: contributed to the creation of the Lithuanian Science Marine Valley and to the publicity of marine research at Klaipeda University Marine Research Institute (former CORPI), also participated in the research of Lithuanian marine archaeological heritage (under the leadership of KU Rector, Prof. V. Žulkus). Professor contributed to the development and strengthening of bachelor's and master's study programmes at the Department of Geophysical Sciences and Physical Geography in the field of marine sciences and motivated creating a doctoral study programme. He helped researchers of Klaipeda University Marine Research Institute to start to integrate and adapt remote sensing techniques to the studies of the Baltic Sea and its coastlines. From 2005, Professor was regularly sending necessary and useful literature for his studies. His collection of donated books (45 items) and

scientific journals (130 items) is now stored at the Klaipeda University Library. In January 2006, he received a Fulbright Scholarship to teach a course in remote environmental research at Klaipeda University, and every spring semester visited Lithuania where he promoted studies on oceanology, remote sensing, and environmental problems of the Baltic Sea. In 2004, 2006, and 2012, Prof. V.V. Klemas organized and was a chairman of the US-Baltic International Symposium on Oceanology in Klaipeda. The topical issues of the symposium were the environment of the Baltic Sea and the problems of its pollution. Symposia received a wide response: in 2006, the symposium was attended by 170 scientists from all over the Baltic Sea basin, including 20 participants from the United States. In 2013, Prof. Dr. Viktoras Vytautas Klemas was elected the Honorary Doctor of Klaipeda University. He always came from the United States to Klaipeda with his wife Vida, and they have always been an integral example of a beautiful, academic, intellectual, and full life together.

The bright memory of the deceased will remain for a long time in the hearts of those who knew him, collaborated with him during scientific research or listened to his lectures.

Algimantas Grigelis
Albertas Bitinas
Inga Dailidienė