

Glen H. Egstrom, Ph.D.

October 16, 1928 - October 7, 2019

Past President of the L.A. County Underwater Instructors Association, President of NAUI, President of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences

Born in Jamestown, North Dakota, Glen was very involved in athletics in high school and college. Upon graduation from high school, he went to the University of North Dakota and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physical Education. He married Donna following graduation and they left for California and their first teaching job. Shortly after being drafted into the Army, he was selected for Officer Candidate School. He graduated with the first Antiaircraft Artillery OCS class in Fort Bliss, Texas. He was sent to Korea where he served in the 3rd Infantry Division as a Platoon Leader in direct support of Infantry and later as an Aerial Observer with the Air Force 6147th Tactical Air Control Squadron where he was engaged in 28 combat missions before returning stateside. He was honorably discharged from the Army as a Major. After the Army, Glen returned to school and was awarded the Ph.D. degree.

The year 1954 was a milestone in his career as he was given a two-hose regulator and a set of twin cylinders that he used for his first scuba dive at Palos Verdes, California. Much of his later research on thermal problems in diving grew out of the lesson that it doesn't matter how cold the water is as long as the diver can stay warm. He became the faculty sponsor for the UCLA Skin and Scuba Club and, by 1961, a formal Los Angeles County certification course had been developed and completed at UCLA. Following certification in this basic scuba course, he enrolled in the L.A. County Underwater Instructors Course in 1964 and received the "Outstanding Candidate" award upon completion. Even though he was primarily an academician, he agreed to be the UCLA Diving Safety Officer from 1964 until 1992. During this time, he operated a major recreational and scientific diving program whose divers have consistently distinguished themselves in the field.

Dr. Egstrom was elected President of the L.A. County Underwater Instructors Association in 1967, President of NAUI in 1970, and President of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences in 1989. The latter group was responsible for gaining an exemption for Scientific Diving from the OSHA Commercial Diving standard. He has been very active in diving education for over 50 years, working with many organizations and thousands of divers in basic, advanced, public safety, scientific, military, and instructor training programs worldwide. He served as Course Director or Training Director in 36 courses for underwater



instructors worldwide. His heavy involvement in underwater education led him to develop an Underwater Kinesiology Laboratory at UCLA and establish a diving safety research project that would operate for over 40 years and result in over 125 publications on various aspects of underwater performance and safety. Glen and Dr. Art Bachrach co-authored *Stress and Performance in Diving* in 1987 in an effort to provide additional insight into the nature of the calculated risks involved in diving. Glen has also been a contributing author to four editions of the *NOAA Diving Manual*, four editions of Bove and Davis' *Diving Medicine*, three editions of Bennett and Elliot's *Physiology and Medicine of Diving* as well as a number of recreational diving manuals.

He recently was selected to edit a major Aquatic Safety Compendium for the National Swimming Pool Foundation. He has also served as a Board Member of several organizations including Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society, the National Science Foundation, Office of Polar Programs Diving Control Board, the DAN Board of Directors, and the NAUI Board of Directors.

Dr. Egstrom was elected a Fellow in the American College of Sports Medicine in 1962, a member of the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society since 1970, a member of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences since 1980 and a NOGI member of The Academy of Underwater Arts and Sciences since 1969. He has received over 20 awards from national and international diving organizations for his work in diving education and safety. Since 1991, he has been Professor Emeritus in the Physiological Sciences Department at UCLA and maintained office and laboratory space on the campus. He continued to serve on the UCLA Diving Safety Control Board for the scientific diving program. Dr. Egstrom is a founding director for the Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society, was actively involved in the selection and nurturing of the OW-U Scholars since 1972, bringing over 50 young people into a family of scholars that are actively focused upon the preservation of our underwater world.

Glen was truly an icon in our sport and our industry. His contributions made our sport safer and more enjoyable for everyone. He is survived by the love of his life, Donna, along with children Gail, Eric, and Karen.

- Dan Orr, President, Academy of Underwater Arts & Sciences