

Tributes for Michael

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Anne and Martin Vannesland

From: [Anne Brevig](#)

To: [Michael Cavaghan](#) ; [Wendy and Mike Cavaghan](#) ; [Wendy Cavaghan](#)

Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2008 11:51 PM

Subject: Michael

Dear Wendy,

We just had the totally shocking and incredible news about Michael. We just disembarked the Discovery in Manaus and spoke to the Captains wife a couple of days ago so we knew Michael was sick and in the hospital and that he had difficulty talking but had no idea it was that serious. This is so unbelievably devastating. Know that our thoughts are with you at this terribly difficult time.

Anne and Martin
(Vannesland)

From: [Anne Brevig](#)

To: [The Cavaghans](#)

Sent: Monday, April 21, 2008 2:45 AM

Subject: RE: Michael

Dearest Wendy,

We will plant a tree for sure for Michael when we come home. We are doing a 3 week land trip on our own in Brazil before returning to Vancouver.

Someone has probably already told you, but in case not - Minerva II (now Royal Princess) and Discovery were lying side by side at the dock in Manaus the day Michael left us and the day he was supposed to re-join the Discovery again. Isn't that strange? We had expected to pass each other on the gangway - and now this -

Stay strong. We will be thinking of you - especially on April 24.

Much love,

Anne and Martin



Nadine Vanpoetreren

From: "Nadine - Crew Manager Van-Poeteren (Deck & Engine)" <nadine.vanpoeteren@vships.com>

To: cavaghan@helloworld.com

Sent: Wednesday, 16 April 2008 12:42:15 AM (GMT+1000) Australia/Brisbane

Subject: OUR THOUGHTS ARE WITH YOU

Dear Wendy

I have just heard the sad news and wanted to drop you a line to offer sincere condolences, it goes without saying he will be missed greatly.

"Bon courage" at what must be a very difficult time

Thoughts prayers and best regards

Nadine

Captain Ilias Venetantis

From: [Ilias Venetantis](#)

To: [The Cavaghans](#)

Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2008 5:08 AM

Subject: Re: Michael Studholme Cavaghan

Dear Wendy,

Please accept my sincere condolences for the unexpected lost of Captain Mike. I knew him only for little but for one I am sure that he was a gentleman and a very good person.

I wish his last voyage to be smooth and bring him in wonderful places where is no sorrow or pain.

May God rest his soul!

*Yours sincerely,
Captain Ilias Venetantis*

Voyages of Discovery

REMEMBERING CAPTAIN MIKE CAVAGHAN

Master of m/v Discovery 2005-2008



Everyone at Voyages of Discovery and Swan Hellenic was saddened to hear of the death of Captain Mike Cavaghan, in Queensland Australia, on 15 April, 2008.

For Captain Mike, seafaring was a lifetime commitment. As an adventurous 14 year-old, he attempted to join the Royal Marines, although the recruiting sergeant at his local RN office quickly torpedoed his plans and his mother went 'ballistic' when she found out.

So it was back to his desk at Carlisle Grammar School for another two years until, after taking GCEs, and a year's hard graft at the School of Navigation in Warsash, Hampshire, he joined P&O S N Co in 1957. For the next 18 years, he served in general cargo ships, tankers and passenger ships, gaining his Master's 'ticket' at Liverpool in 1968.

Despite having sailed in some of the great ocean liners, like 'Orsova', 'Theria' and the first 'Oriana', it was medium-size ships that were closest to his heart. In 1996, Captain Mike took command of 'Minerva' for Swan Hellenic. For nine wonderful years, he cruised the Mediterranean, Northern Europe, Africa and the Far East in 'Minerva' and 'Minerva II', accompanied by his vivacious wife, Wendy, whom he met on 'Oriana'.

In April 2005, Captain Mike joined Voyages of Discovery, to share the command of Discovery's programme of worldwide cruises with Captain Derrick Kemp. After a familiarisation cruise with Captain Kemp in July, his first solo cruise for the company was a 17-night Voyage to Canada – a new route for the cruise line and

for the captain – from Harwich to Iceland, Greenland and Newfoundland.

Long days and nights on the bridge, the menace of fog and his first encounter with ice presented Captain Mike with a serious challenge. But with characteristic good humour, determination and skill, he took it in his stride.

He thoroughly enjoyed the honour of captaining Discovery's first voyage to Canada and the warm welcome he and the ship received from the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on their inaugural visit to the Port of St John's, Newfoundland.

At a colourful ceremony on the quayside, during which infantrymen fired a welcoming volley and Redcoats in 18th C uniform drilled in fours to a rousing Fife and Drum band, Captain Mike was much amused to receive a citation that conferred 'The Freedom of the Seaport' upon the Captain of Discovery as Admiral of the Fleet...

His last cruise with Discovery was to an equally memorable destination – the Antarctic Peninsula and South Georgia, from 21 December, 2007 to 4 January, 2008. It was a fitting finale to a life at sea, that had taken him far and wide across the world's oceans.

He will be sadly missed by his colleagues and passengers alike, who knew him as an exceptional navigator with a generous nature and a great sense of humour; also by his wife, his son, daughter and three grandchildren, to whom we send sincere condolences.

Captain Leonidas and Alexandra Vratsanos

From: [Alexandra Trepkli](#)

To: cavaghan@bigpond.net.au

Sent: Friday, April 18, 2008 11:23 PM

Subject: God Speed our Loving Brother Mike!

Our dearest and beloved "sister" Wendy,

Words are insufficient to describe the impact of the news received through our mutual friends of "Travelway" in Athens. And you are right in stating in your tribute that Michael has sailed for uncharted seas pioneering the distant routes awaiting our skippers !!!!!!!!!!!!!

Yours wasn't a tribute ,but an ODE justifying in the most eloquent and poetic way His Life's Choice .Both Leonidas and myself are very close to you sharing the void of His untimely sailing .I am not as skilled as you in the use of my P/C - prefer to write- but we had to get through to you as soon as possible and we want you to know that we will so remain.

Please convey our feelings of support and deepest sympathy to Robin, Richard and Joanna. As for you, you have to know that He takes great pride in you and will care for you always from no matter what port

We embrace you warmly and fondly
Leonidas and Alexandra VRATSANOS

