



Spica Marine Inspections Ltd
Death and Funeral Announcement



John Richard Beckwith Harding
(Capt. Spike)
1946 – 2014

It is with humble acceptance of God's will that we announce the death of Capt. Spike, the founder and MD of Spica Marine Inspections Ltd.

Captain John R.B. "Spike" Harding, 68 yrs, died in London at 5.20am, Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2014 after battling a long illness.

He is survived by his wife Roise Emma Harding, and his three sons, Chad, Brian and Allan Harding.

Service will be held at 9am, Saturday, Dec. 20, at The Missions to Seafarers, Mombasa.

A cremation will follow at the Mombasa Hindu Crematorium, Buxton. No photography allowed at and during the cremation.



In God's hands you rest, in our hearts you live forever.

Crossing the Bar

BY **ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON**

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea,
But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.
Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;
For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar.



CAPT. SPIKE
JOHN RICHARD BECKWITH HARDING
1946 - 2014



Eulogy by Chad Harding

Good Morning, and thank you for coming together to celebrate the life of a great man, Captain John "Spike" Harding, who I've also had the honour of calling my father.

My father was born 31st of March 1946 to Jack and Winn Harding in York, England. Growing up in a military family, my father had moved to Germany before the age of 6, where his father had then been posted. When he went back to Pocklington Boarding School in North Yorkshire, my father actually spoke better German than he did English. It was during this time at Pocklington, my father decided that the military life was not for him and decided to enroll at the H.M.S. Conway Merchant Navy Officer Training School at the age of 14.

He graduated at the age of 17 and started his career at sea. He began with the Royal Mail Lines as Navigating Cadet, Fourth Officer, and Third Officer on general cargo and cruise vessel; sailing between the UK and South America, South Africa, and into the Far East. In 1970, he left Royal Mail Lines and proceeded to work as Second Mate, Relief Mate, and Chief Officer on Dredges in Holland, Landing Craft, Supply/Anchor Handling Boats, and Rig Towing in Northern Scotland, Nova Scotia, and Spain. Not long after this, he married my mother Carroll and I was born in 1974.

It is often said that at some point, every Sea Man dreams of coming ashore. It is with this dream that in 1981, my father took over the Caley Arms Pub, in Allerston, North Yorkshire; which he owned and managed. After 3 years though, he realized the call of the sea was too great, and in 1983, he went back to sea as Master, working in the Persian Gulf, Brazil, and as Marine Controller on offshore platforms in the North Sea.

Eventually at age 41 in 1987, my father made his way to East Africa, a place he would later learn to call "home". He took a position as Project Manager "First In Last Out" for Beach Landing Operations for Oil & Gas exploration. This work took him from Kenya to Madagascar, Somalia, Mozambique, and Tanzania over the course of the following 3 years. In the subsequent 3 years after, he supervised flat top barge repairs and was Master at general cargo vessel trading in Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania, Mozambique, and South Africa.

Early in the 1990s, my father got a second chance at parenthood with his 2nd wife, Emma. For him, it was extremely important that he be present for his 2 boys, Brian & Allan. This was one of the main reasons he decided to stay in Kenya and set up Spica Marine. My father had always wanted to operate as an independent anyway, and Spica Marine gave him the opportunity to fulfill his dream, as well as to be home with family.

Therefore, in 1993, Captain John "Spike" Harding became Managing Director of Spica Marine Associates Limited, a family owned firm specializing in Marine Cargo Surveys, Inspections, and Marine Contractors, which often aligned with the oil exploration business. During this period, "Spike and his Marines" aka "the United Nations" revolutionized and changed the way stowaway patrols were conducted in the port of Mombasa. Concurrently, my father was also the Technical Manager of East Africa for an Energy Trading Firm; trading and traveling the region on their behalf and managing regionally owned coastal tankers.

In year 2000, my father came back to Spica Marine as full-time Managing Director, concentrating on Marine Cargo Surveys and Inspections, and P&I Hull Surveys. Once again, he became involved with the Oil & Gas industry, supervising rig moves and barge operations in Tanzania, Uganda, and South Sudan. In addition, he also lectured and trained Kenyan personnel for sea going and oil field employment.

From 2007 onwards, my father was appointed as H&M surveyor for numerous ship registers. He wrote and consulted on procedure manuals for local interests and lectured on insurance and risk issues. Spica also conducted warranty surveys for the movement of heavy lift engine and generators, as well as other project cargoes.

EULOGY - CONT'D

More recently, my father has taken the company to the next level, guiding Spica Marine to International Standards with the following accreditations:

Approved by DNV for ISO 9001:2008 and OHSAS 18001:2007
Member of the International Association of Drilling Contractors
Member of the Lifting Equipment Engineers Association
Most Safety Compliant Contractor Award by Kenya Port Authority

In addition, he made sure Spica Kenyan Inspection Teams were fully trained to internationally recognized standards whilst operating in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Ethiopia in oil field exploration. Under his leadership, Spica Marine also set the standard for import and exports tally and inspections of containers in the Port of Mombasa.

During my father's time in Africa, he has helped countless people, providing advice to members of the industry, as well as providing jobs for over 500+ Kenyans. His knowledge in the world of maritime affairs and oil & gas exploration was extremely vast and precious. I think I can safely say that all who met and worked with my father have great respect for him as a man and someone who has paved the way for so many. I hope you were all able to gain something from his vast knowledge, just as I have. I will miss him not only as my father, but also as my chief advisor in work as well as personal matters.

On a personal note, beneath my father's tough exterior, he was an adventurous but sentimental man. It is because of my father, that I have inherited his same thirst for adventure and exploration. We share a love for books, history, geography and faraway lands. He taught and instilled in me a strong work ethic, and ambition, which I am forever grateful for.

The passing of Captain John "Spike" Harding leaves a huge void that will be difficult to fill...

In closing, I would like to share with you an old Irish maritime poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson.