

## THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

### *Regents Communication*

#### ACTION REQUEST

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

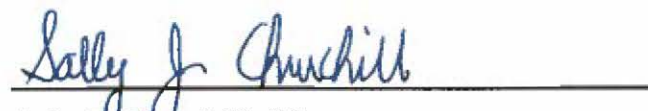
**Robert F. Beck, Ph.D.**, Richard B. Couch Professor of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering and professor of naval architecture and marine engineering in the College of Engineering, retired from active faculty status on June 30, 2018.

Professor Beck received his B.S.E. degrees in naval architecture and marine engineering and aeronautical and astronautical engineering from the University of Michigan in 1965. He received his S.M. and Ph.D. degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1967 and 1970, respectively. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1972, and was promoted to associate professor in 1977, and professor in 1982. He served as the director of the Ship Hydrodynamics Laboratory from 1988-91, chair of the Department of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering from 1991-94, and was a member of the College of Engineering Executive Committee from 1998-2003. Professor Beck was named the Herbert C. Sadler Collegiate Professor of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering from 2005-07 and the Richard B. Couch Professor of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering from 2008-18.

Professor Beck is an internationally recognized leader in the field of marine hydrodynamics. His research interests explored yacht design and all aspects of marine hydrodynamics, including wave loads, seakeeping, maneuvering, and resistance. Professor Beck was a pioneer in using time-domain methods, both linear and nonlinear, to predict ship motions and maneuvering in a seaway. He led several large multi-university ship hydrodynamic research projects sponsored by the Office of Naval Research. Professor Beck was a fellow and life member of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers. He served as the editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Ship Research* from 1998-2012. Professor Beck received numerous awards, including the Dr. Kenneth S.M. Davidson Medal from the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers (2000), a lifetime achievement award from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers' Ocean, Offshore and Arctic Engineering Division (2015), as well as being named the Georg P. Weinblum Memorial Lecturer from the Weinblum Memorial Foundation (2008-09). Professor Beck taught 25 different naval architecture and marine engineering courses, including 12 new courses he developed. He received the Teaching Excellence Award from the College of Engineering in 1985.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Robert F. Beck, Richard B. Couch Professor Emeritus of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering and professor emeritus of naval architecture and marine engineering.**

**Requested by:**



**Sally J. Churchill, J.D.**  
Vice President and Secretary of the University

**June 2018**