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IMSHOF Honoree Commander Gerald Forsberg, OBE, Master Mariner, FNI, Royal Navy (Retired) of Great Britain has been selected as the fifth recipient of the Dale Petranec Award for Services to the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame. His son, Charles, will be presented with the award at a future International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame (IMSHOF) Induction/Award ceremony.

In 1971 IMSHOF was founded by a panel of selectors (Forsberg, Buck Dawson of the International Swimming Hall of Fame and Joe Grossman) with input from Kevin Murphy who named "classes" of six Honorees for each year from 1963 (when the World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation began to collect paper based historical data on the sport) through 1970. Forsberg continued to lead the organization for more than 25 years – handing over to Dale Petranec in 1997 after the induction of the 140th Honoree. He passed away three years later.

Ned Denison, Chair of the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame, explains the reasoning behind Forsberg's selection. "During and following an incredible marathon swimming career (1949 to 1996, 211 swims, 2,000 plus km and the English Channel speed record at age 45) Forsberg dedicated his life to the advancement of the sport. He was President of the Channel Swimming Association and British Long Distance Swimming Association, author of five books and a 40 year columnist for the Swimming Times promoting long distance swimming. The International Swimming Hall of Fame inducted him in 1998 and awarded him with the Irving Davids/Captain Roger W. Wheeler Memorial Award in 1971 for his contribution to the administration of open water swimming and the Buck Dawson Authors Award in 1957, 1961 and 1963. IMSHOF would not exist today without his massive contribution."

This award was created in 2016 to honor Dale Petranec for decades of service to the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame. Petranec is a dual inductee in both the IMSHOF and the International Swimming Hall of Fame as an Honor Contributor. As a marathon swimmer, Petranec previously held the record as the oldest solo swimmer across the Catalina Channel. He served for nearly 50 years in various capacities at all levels of the sport, local, regional, national and international.