
William H. Hooker

Dr. H. S. Potter died March 19, 1989, in his home in Holmes Beach, Florida, at age 73 after a long and courageous struggle against cancer. He was born in Philadelphia and later moved back to that area. He earned the Ph.D. from the University of Maryland, preceded by the B.S. from Pennsylvania State University and the M.S. from Cornell University. He was a fishery biologist with the Pennsylvania Fish Commission, forest and range ecologist, ARS Forest Service, economic biologist of the U.S. Food and Agricultural Administration, and later with the Department of State for the United Nations. He was an elected member of the French Academy of Science.

Spence was an enthusiast of U.S. history and enjoyed particularly studying and reading about events related to the Revolutionary War. He was, as well, a serious student of U.S. military history. As a skipper of sailing craft, he was an experienced and highly successful competitor, winning his last race in September 1988, on Lake Huron with “The Patriot.”

During World War II, Major Potter was honored by the awards, Croix du Guerre and by the Croix de Lorraine, conferred by the French military for his outstanding service in the Allied Campaign in North Africa, Southern Europe, and Northern France. He served the U.S. Army Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces from January 1941 to December 1945, receiving the Defense Service Medal and three Bronze Battle Stars during the Naples, Foggia, Rome Arno, and Northern France Campaign. After World War II, he was commended for his services in rehabilitation of the shipping and fishing industries of France, Belgium, and the Netherlands. After 20 years of service in the U.S. Army Spence retired as Lt. Col. USAR.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret (Peggy) Allen Potter, two daughters, two sons, and three grandchildren.

Those of us privileged to know Spence well mourn the loss of a good friend and respected associate.