First Honorary Member

By Dave Weiner

I got some absolutely wonderful news recently; Ernie Edwards and his son, Errol will be coming to the states next year for the reunion, from Australia!! Ernest and Hilde Edwards were the first Honorary members of the 6th Weather Squadron (MOB) Alumni Association at either the first or second reunion.

By way of explanation, in December of 62, Jerry Williams, Jim Parr and I arrived at Vitu (Witu) Island in the territory of Papua New Guinea. Our site was a strip of beach called Pidu Point. Ernie was the manager for Langu Plantation located on the island and closest to our site. He and his wife Hilde and their four young children became like family to us. We had many meals and happy times with the Edwards family. At Christmas they had the plantation workers make icicles out of coconut shells and decorate the front of the plantation porch, took us on boating trips, etc. Tom Rivers and his crew, Sande Solenberg (TSgt - NCOIC) and David A. Davis (Technician) relieved us in the spring of 63.

Jerry Williams and I have maintained contact with them regularly since that time. Jerry has provided pictures and an excellent narrative which appears in our website.

Ernie is completing his autobiography at this time and is using some of the proceeds to make the trip to the states with his son Errol. Sadly, his wife Hilde passed away about 2 years ago.

His plan for this trip will be to spend time with Jerry and Muffy and Ginnie and me and also attend the 2011 reunion. He feels a part of 6th Weather after all of those years.

It sure will be exciting for Jerry and me to see them again after 47 years! Errol was about 2-3 when we left.

Mark Your CALENDAR
8—12 JUNE 2011

2011 Reunion Schedule Set

BOD Vote to Standup Advisory Committee

Traditionally, we have convened an Ad Hoc Committee during the reunion to address issues and provide recommendations to the Board of Directors. This practice has served the association well. However, time-sensitive issues arise well outside the time-frame of reunions when advice/recommendations can be of benefit to the BOD. The BOD Advisory Committee can intra-communicate and respond with timely advice to enhance our BOD decision making. The vote of the BOD was unanimous in standing up the BAC.

The Chair of the BOD Advisory Committee has been accepted by Shirley Eldrington. She is presently contacting members to determine whether they are willing to serve on this very important committee.

The primary function of the BAC will be to accept potential or identified issues, investigate/analyze, & formulate a recommendation.

- New Members, 1st Honorary
- Fund Status, Engagement, ID Cards, SCM-1
- Project Have Horn, Well Wishes
- VA Resource List
- Memorabilia Order Form
- New/Renewal Application
- VA Grave Misc/Final Launch
First Honorary ???

A few weeks ago, Dave Weiner inquired of the Chair as to the dates of the 2011 reunion. His reason was that he had “Got some absolutely wonderful news recently, Ernie Edwards and his son Errol will be coming to the states next year from Australia for the reunion !!!” Further, Dave stated “Ernie was the first Honorary member of the Squadron Alumni Association on a motion by me seconded by Tom Rivers at either the first or second reunion. Don was going to get confirmation to Ernie... but I don’t know if that ever happened.”

This was Breaking News to the Chair who began an inquiry of BODs members & others including Don Garbutt—Chair at that time—for knowledge or records. No one contacted by the Chair had any knowledge of the act, and Don did not remember. There didn’t seem to be any record to substantiate such a very important and historic event.

Fortunately, Ernie was able to produce a copy of a letter dated in 1991 bearing Don’s signature extending an invitation to the reunion, and a offer to provide reunion amenities on Ernie’s arrival.

Although this letter didn’t address the bestowing of Honorary, the Chair considered it evidence enough to believe the act had indeed transpired, and has set about officially confirming it for the record and acknowledging it by today’s standards.

Additionally, the Chair, with the BOD approval believes the Association is obligated to fulfill the commitment made nearly 20 years ago to Ernie Edwards on his attendance at this 2011 reunion.

Welcome New Members

David L Carmichael

Ernest “Ernie” Edwards

Engagement Announced

On June 25, 2010 Stephen Gladish II, (son of Steve and Betsy Gladish) and Gauri Pathak (daughter of Dr. Anant Pathak and Dr. Meera Pathak) announced their engagement. The families pictured left to right, Dr. Meera Pathak, Gauri Pathak, Betsy Gladish, Steve Gladish Sr., Steve Gladish II, and Dr. Anant Pathak.

Financial Status as of 3/22/10

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WWII Mobile Weather Van

Big Hit At AWA Reunion

Colorado Springs, CO: Member Fred LaPerriere put his SCM-1, restored WWII Mobile Weather Van on display during the 11-15 Aug Air Weather Association reunion in Colorado Springs. According to our BOD member, Ted Lungwitz who assisted Fred, the display was visited by over 200 reunion attendees. He stated that Maj. Gen. John Collins, former AWS Commander was so impressed the General indicated he will work to have the Van placed in the US Air Force museum located at Wright Patterson AFB in Ohio. Fred was inducted as a WSAA Honorary Member for displaying his restored Van, at his own expense, during our 2009 reunion.

MILITARY ID CARD UPDATE OR NO ACCESS TO MILITARY BASES

The Air Force is implementing an improved military base access program effective immediately referred to as D-BIDS. All ID cards for active duty, dependents retirees and their dependents MUST HAVE their ID cards rescreened and updated ASAP. As a Senior Staff Advisor to the Lackland AFB Retiree Activities Office, I was informed this afternoon by Pass and ID Lackland AFB, that this new ID access program will be mandatory O/A 1 September 2010.

Remember the above email?

Limited DOD research since the email was circulated revealed D-BIDS has been around for some years and has been primarily used overseas and at some bases in the CONUS. A check with the local TAFB Pass and ID Office; the only issue with ID Cards is they are phasing out Social Security Numbers from ALL cards.

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1970 I was part of a team that was deployed to Truro AF Station on Cape Cod in Massachusetts, in order to support Operation Have Horn. After we arrived on the Cape we rented apartments in Provincetown (PTown) where we would live for the duration of the project. I was not aware of what a “colorful” place PTown was nor of many of the famous residents who lived there during the winter. I considered myself a relatively knowledgeable “man of the world”, but PTown really opened my eyes.

My first experience occurred while I was exploring the waterfront one Saturday morning and I came upon an elderly couple with a very large display of photographs. I was very impressed with what they had and started asking for prices. I almost fainted. The prices were higher than Joe Namath’s New York City’s bar tabs. When I made a comment to the lady about the prices she looked at me like I was some kind of moron (which, I guess I was). She said the photo’s were by Ansel Adams. I told her I had never heard of him and she said she was Mrs. Ansel Adams and Mr. Ansel Adams was setting in a lawn chair just a few feet away from us. I had obviously become a persona non grata so I quickly scurried away. It was not until a number of years later that I discovered what a world renowned artist Ansel Adams was and I felt like a bigger fool than I did the day I almost got to meet him.

A few weeks later, during the late evening, I was driving one of our AF trucks back to my apartment when I saw a guy hitchhiking into PTown. It was kind of an unwritten law around there that you picked up hitchhikers. It was also extremely cold and was snowing quite hard. So I picked the guy up. We started talking and he told me he was the new chef at one of the restaurants in PTown and that was where he was headed. He told me that when we got there if I would come in he would buy me a drink and fix a special appetizer for me. We got to the restaurant so I stopped and went inside with him. I sat down at the bar and next to me was a short, rather thick looking drunk who could barely stay seated on his bar stool.

When the guy I picked up came in, the drunk acted like he had just seen his long lost brother. He grabbed the guy and started hugging him and saying how he had been waiting for him to show up. The hitchhiker introduced me to the drunk as the driver who brought him into PTown and the drunk started hugging me and profusely thanked me for bringing this guy to the restaurant. Then I discovered the drunk was Norman Mailer. He lived in PTown during the winter and did a great deal of his writing there. I sat at the bar and Norman just kept buying he and I drink after drink. Pretty soon, after he could no longer stay seated on his bar stool he decided he probably should leave. Norman wrapped a heavy scarf around his neck, put on a very heavy looking brown cashmere overcoat and stumbled out of the bar. I offered him a ride but he said he preferred to walk.

So the last image I have of Norman Mailer was him trudging very slowly through the snow, down the street, headed for the far end of PTown and I guess his home.

Dear Abby Stumpers

Dear Abby, What can I do about all the Sex, Nudity, Fowl Language and Violence on my VCR?

Dear Abby, I have a man I can’t trust. He cheats so much, I’m not even sure the baby I’m carrying is his.
Veterans Affairs Resources

Below are web-sites that provide information on Veterans benefits and how to file/ask for them. Accordingly, there are many sites that explain how to obtain books, military medical records, information and how to appeal denied claims with the VA. Please pass this information on to every Veteran you know. Nearly 100% of this information is free and available for all veterans, the only catch is: you have to ask for it, because they won't tell you about a specific benefit unless you ask them. You need to know what questions to ask so the right doors are open for you -- and then be ready to have an advocate who is willing to work with and for you, stay in the process, and press for your rights and your best interests.

Appeals [http://www.vaowa.gov/admin21/m21/1/html/part1/ch05.doc](http://www.vaowa.gov/admin21/m21/1/html/part1/ch05.doc)


Center for Minority Veterans [http://www.vaowa.gov/centerforminorityveterans](http://www.vaowa.gov/centerforminorityveterans)

Center for Veterans Enterprise [http://www.vaowa.gov/default2.htm](http://www.vaowa.gov/default2.htm)


Clariication on the changes in VA healthcare for Gulf War Veterans [http://www.vaowa.gov/admin21/m21/1/html/part6%20/ch07.doc](http://www.vaowa.gov/admin21/m21/1/html/part6%20/ch07.doc)


Compensation Rate Tables, 12-1-03 [http://www.vaowa.gov/bvhs/21/ratescomp01.htm](http://www.vaowa.gov/bvhs/21/ratescomp01.htm)


Disability Examination Workshops Index, Comp [http://www.vaowa.gov/hb/21/benefits/exams/index.htm](http://www.vaowa.gov/hb/21/benefits/exams/index.htm)

Due Process [http://www.vaowa.gov/admin21/m21/1/html/part1/ch02.doc](http://www.vaowa.gov/admin21/m21/1/html/part1/ch02.doc)

Duty to Assist [http://www.vaowa.gov/admin21/m21/1/html/part1/ch01.doc](http://www.vaowa.gov/admin21/m21/1/html/part1/ch01.doc)


See also, Depleted Uranium Fact Sheet [http://www.vaowa.gov/gulfwar/docs/DUHandbook1303123204.DOC](http://www.vaowa.gov/gulfwar/docs/DUHandbook1303123204.DOC)

EVALUATION PROTOCOL FOR NON-GULF WAR VETERANS WITH POTENTIAL EXPOSURE TO DEPLETED URA NIUM (DU) [http://www.vaowa.gov/gulfwar/docs/DUHandbook1303123204.DOC](http://www.vaowa.gov/gulfwar/docs/DUHandbook1303123204.DOC)


Geriatrics and Extended Care [http://www.vaowa.gov/geriatricsgeriatricshomepage](http://www.vaowa.gov/geriatricsgeriatricshomepage)


Hearings [http://www.vaowa.gov/admin21/m21/1/html/ch04.0.doc](http://www.vaowa.gov/admin21/m21/1/html/ch04.0.doc)

Homeless Veterans [http://www.vaowa.gov/admin21/m21/1/html/ch04.0.doc](http://www.vaowa.gov/admin21/m21/1/html/ch04.0.doc)


MS (Multiple Sclerosis) Centers of Excellence [http://www.vaowa.gov/about.asp](http://www.vaowa.gov/about.asp)


Key-Chain Coin-holder

New! Now available, a key-chain that is also a coin holder. Thanks to BOD member Ted Lungwitz, these nifty coin companions add portability and allow members to carry their coin along for ready instant display to one & all. $6.00. Please allow 2-weeks to process.

History CDs are still available for members to order. There are eighteen CDs that contain 6WSq history artifacts transferred from books and records retained/secured from the Squadron Deactivation and from some of our members. They are $1.50 each—includes postage. You may order one, two or all 18 of the CDs direct from,

Shirley Eldringhoff, Historian
521 W Ring Factory Rd
Bel Air, MD 21015
Please allow two weeks for processing.

“Original Storm Chasers” Unique Cap
It is Royal Blue with White Lettering and White Trim, un-dated. Really nice and available.

Complete and submit the Order Form with your check.

Full Color Logo Polo Type Shirt

Complete the order form to get yours now!

PURCHASE ORDER FORM

Name: ________________________________
Street/P.O. Box: _______________________
City: __________________ ST: __________ ZIP: __________
Home Phone No.: (__)_________ Alternate Phone No.: (__)_________
E-mail address: _______________________

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Key-Chain Coin Holder</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;&quot; Shirt (50% Cotton &amp; 50% Polyester)</td>
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<tr>
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Enclose a check or money order for the TOTAL payable to 6WSAA.

Mail to: 6th WEATHER SQUADRON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 7642
Oklahoma City, OK 73153-1642

Thank you for your order. Please allow 2 to 4 weeks after receipt for delivery by USPS.
NEW/RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership categories are:

**Primary Members:** Former members of the USAF 6th Weather Squadron (Mobile) or any of its predecessor units including civilian employees. Annual dues are required to remain Active.

**Associate Members:** Current or former members of any organization that provided direct service to 6th Weather Squadron (Mobile). Civilian employees, spouses or other immediate family of this group may become Associate Members. Annual dues are required to remain active. *Spouses of Primary Members in good standing hold Associate Membership and are exempt from dues.* Voting privileges are not enjoyed by Associate Members.

**Honorary Members:** Persons who must be nominated for Honorary Membership by a Primary Member and who must be approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Widows and widowers of Primary Members are deemed Honorary Members by relationship. Honorary Members are exempt from dues. Voting privileges are not enjoyed by Honorary Members.

*YOUR NAME: ____________________________ NICKNAME: ____________________________

YOUR SPOUSE: ____________________________ NICKNAME: ____________________________

Check Type Membership Applying For: Primary ______ Associate ______ Honorary ______

*Widow/Widower of alumni member - Enter the deceased Member’s name, rank, and year in which deceased:

Deceased Member’s Name: ____________________________ Rank: __________ Year Deceased: __________

Your Mailing Address:

STREET/P.O. BOX: ____________________________

City: ____________________________ ST: __________ ZIP: __________

Date of Birth ____________________________

Home phone No: (___) ______ Office phone No: (___) ______

E-mail address: ____________________________

Years in 6th WS (MOB) (ex. 60-64): ____________________________

Organization (if not 6th MOB): ____________________________

Enclose a check or money order for $10.00/year payable to 6WSAA.

Enclosed is $_______ for (# years)______ Dues.

Mail to: 6th WEATHER SQUADRON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 7642

Oklahoma City, OK 73153-1642
WASHINGTON (AFRN) -- Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki announced June 29 that the Department of Veterans Affairs is offering bronze medallions to attach to existing, privately purchased headstones or markers, signifying a deceased's status as a veteran.

"For veterans not buried in a national or state veterans cemetery, or those without a government grave marker, VA is pleased to offer this option that highlights their service and sacrifices for our country," said Secretary Shinseki.

The new item can be furnished instead of a traditional government headstone or marker for veterans whose death occurred on or after Nov. 1, 1990, and whose grave in a private cemetery is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker.

Under federal law, eligible veterans buried in a private cemetery are entitled to either a government-furnished grave marker or the new medallion, but not both. Veterans buried in a national or state veterans cemetery will receive a government headstone or marker of the standard design authorized at that cemetery.

The medallion is available in three sizes: 5 inches, 3 inches and 1¼ inches in width. Each bronze medallion features the image of a folded burial flag adorned with laurels and is inscribed with the word "Veteran" at the top and the branch of service at the bottom.

Next of kin will receive the medallion, along with a kit that will allow the family or the staff of a private cemetery to affix the medallion to a headstone, grave marker, mausoleum or columbarium niche cover.

More information about VA-furnished headstones, markers and medallions can be found at www.cem.va.gov/cem/hm/hmtype.asp.

VA is currently developing an application form for ordering the medallion. Until it is available, applicants may use the form for ordering government headstones and markers, VA Form 40-1330. Instructions on how to apply for a medallion are found on the VA website at www.cem.va.gov/hm_hm.asp.

Veterans with a discharge issued under conditions other than dishonorable, their spouses and eligible dependent children can be buried in a VA national cemetery. Other burial benefits available for all eligible veterans, regardless of whether they are buried in a national cemetery or a private cemetery, include a burial flag, a Presidential Memorial Certificate and a government headstone or grave marker.

The new medallions will be available only to veterans buried in private cemeteries without a government headstone or marker. Families of eligible decedents may also order a memorial headstone or marker when remains are not available for interment.

VA operates 131 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico, and 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites. More than 3 million Americans, including veterans of every war and conflict -- from the Revolutionary War to the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan -- are buried in VA's national cemeteries on more than 19,000 acres.

Information on VA burial benefits can be obtained from national cemetery offices, from the VA website on the Internet at www.cem.va.gov or by calling VA regional offices toll-free at 800-827-1000. (Courtesy of VA News)
The 6th Dimension

VA Resources List (continued from page 7)
National Association of State Directors (http://www.nasvda.com/)
National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (http://www.nichdp.med.va.gov/postdeploymentlinks.asp)
Neurological Conditions and Convulsive Disorders, Schedule of Ratings (http://www.wambs.vba.va.gov/regs38cfrbook/part4/4%248124a.doc)
OMI (Office of Medical Inspector) (http://www.omi.cio.med.va.gov/
Online VA Form 10-10EZ (http://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/1010ez/
Parkinson's Disease and Related Neurodegenerative Disorders (http://www1.va.gov/resdev/findings/solicitations/docs/docs/parkinsons.pdf) and, http://www1.va.gov/patrec/
Peacetime Disability Compensation (http://tinyurl.com/ access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?iname=browse_usc&docid=CfE:+38USC11131
Persian Gulf Registry (http://www1.va.gov/healthpubs/
ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1003
This program is now referred to as Persian Gulf Registry Program (to include Operation Iraqi Freedom) as of March 7, 2005: http://www1.va.gov/healthpubs/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1232
Persian Gulf Registry Referral Centers (http://www1.va.gov/
ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1006
Phase I PGR (http://www1.va.gov/healthpubs/
ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1004
Phase II PGR (http://www1.va.gov/healthpubs/
ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1005
Policy Manual Index (http://www1.va.gov/pub1/direct/eds/edsmis.htm
Power of Attorney (http://www.wambs.vba.va.gov/admin21/med_21_manpart1/ch03.doc
Project 112 (Including Project SHAD) (http://www1.va.gov/shad/
Prosthetics Eligibility (http://www1.va.gov/healthpubs/
ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=337
Public Health and Environmental Hazards Home Page (http://www.cio.med.va.gov/
Public Health/SARS (http://www.publichealth.va.gov/SARS/
Publications Manuals (http://www1.va.gov/healthpubs/publications.cfm?Pub=4
Publications and Reports (http://www1.va.gov/resdev/gulf/pitp/pubs_individual.cfm?webpage=gulf_war.html

Records Center and Vault Homepage (http://www.sac.va.gov/vault/default.html)
Records Center and Vault Site Map (http://www.sac.va.gov/vault/sitemap.html)
REQUEST FOR AND CONSENT TO RELEASE OF INFORMATION FROM CLAIMANT'S RECORDS (http://www.forms.va.gov/Internet/VARF/getformharness.asp?formName=3388-form.wrf)
Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans Illnesses April 11, 2002 (http://www1.va.gov/resvac-wwii/docs/Monies_April112002.doc)
Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans Illnesses (http://www1.va.gov/resvac-wwii/docs/ReportandRecommendations_2004.pdf)
Research and Development (http://www.appc1.va.gov/resdev/programs/all_programs.cfm
Survivor's and Dependent's Educational Assistance (http://www.access.gpo.gov/choose/title38/partii/chapter25.html)
Title 38 Index Parts 0-17 (http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/tex/section-idxid?sid=b0c6289b5104d3137f6563801bc3b3dc&c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfr/browse/Title38/38cfv1_03.tpl
Part 18 (http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/tex/section-idxid?sid=b0c6289b5104d3137f6563801bc3b3dc&c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfr/browse/Title38/38cfv2_02.tpl
Title 38 Part 3 Adjudication Subpart A Pension, Compensation, and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/tex/section-idxid?c=ecfr&sid=b0c6289b5104d3137f6563801bc3b3dc&tpl=/ecfr/browse/Title38/38cfv3_03.main_02.tpl
Title 38 Pensions, Bonuses & Veterans Relief (also 3.317 Compensation for certain disabilities due to undiagnosed illnesses found here) (http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/tex/section-idxid?c=ecfr&sid=b0c6289b5104d3137f6563801bc3b3dc&tpl=/ecfr/browse/Title38/38cfv3_03.main_02.tpl
Title 38 PART 4--SCHEDULE FOR RATING DISABILITIES Subpart B--DISABILITY RATINGS (http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/tex/section-idxid?c=ecfr&sid=ab7644edf195c04fa230657obbdc350&rn=div1.0.1.1.5.2&div=38
U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (http://www.vetapp.gov/)
VA WMD EMHG (http://www1.va.gov/wmgf2/)
VA WRIIC SC (http://www1.va.gov/WRIIC-DC/

More Resource List

This newsletter is published for the exclusive use of our 6WSAA members. Information is included as reported without vetting and is edited for space. If you discover an error or items that need a correction, please notify Chuck Miller, Editor, 408-424-5058 or email .comiller@bcglobal.net. Or, you may contact any BOD or Membership Committee member listed in the left panel on the first page. Contact info? See Member List.