

July 2, 1984

DAVIS CALVIN WAGNER AWARD ACCEPTANCE COMMENTS

Lest We All Forget

I wish to take this as an opportunity to pay homage to those professional sanitarians and engineers who served on the Sanitarians Joint Council during the time the American Inter-Society Academy for the Certification of Sanitarians (now the American Academy of Sanitarians) was planned and developed. And I also desire to pay my respects to the original members of the American Inter-Society Academy for the Certification of Sanitarians.

The Sanitarians Joint Council consisted of two representatives from the National Association of Sanitarians (now NEHA), two from the International Association of Milk and Food Sanitarians (IAMFS), and two from the American Public Health Association (APHA). Some of the members during those years included Professor Harry Bliss of the University of California, representing the APHA; Engineer Emil Chanlett of the University of North Carolina School of Public Health, representing the APHA; Professor Harold "Dick" Adams of the University of Indiana, representing the IAMFS; Larry Gordon, Director of the Albuquerque Environmental Health Department, representing the National Association of Sanitarians (NEHA); and Engineer Director Ed Ruppert of the USPHS Milk and Food Branch, also representing the NAS (NEHA). William V. Hickey, Executive Director of the Single Service Institute, representing the International Association of Milk, Food, and Environmental Sanitarians, was also deeply involved and served as the genial and generous host for many meetings -- even though he lacked a degree and did not qualify for Diplomate status. I have purposely noted that several individuals involved in developing the AIACS (Academy of Sanitarians) were engineers in order to indicate their involvement, leadership and support.

The original AIACS Board members had Diplomat Certificates numbered alphabetically one through twelve. I am proud to have Certificate number six, signed by President Dick Adams and Secretary Darrold Taylor (Sanitarian Director) of the USPHS Milk and Food Branch -- Darrold was later appointed PHS Chief Sanitarian Officer. Other original AIACS Board members included Ed Diddams of Illinois, Russ Franklin (now deceased) of Philadelphia, John McHugh (recently retired) of New York City, Sanitarian Director William C. "Dusty" Miller of the PHS Milk and Food Branch who is retired and living in South Carolina, Faegin Parrish of Georgia, and Professor Verne Reiersen of Oregon. Several other members of the Sanitarians Joint Council also became members of the original AIACS. Most of these environmental health leaders are now retired and, to the best of my knowledge, two are deceased. I was privileged to know and work with all these professional sanitarians and engineers and consider many of them to have been among my many mentors. I believe that only Faegin Parrish and I remain professionally active, so perhaps we are "the last leaves!"

Some thirty years ago I was having lunch with Professor Harry Miller of the University of Michigan School of Public Health. Harry had an outstanding career as a Public Health Service Engineer Officer prior to entering academia, and he was nearing the end of his illustrious career. During the discussion, Harry gazed through a nearby window and commented "... *how soon they forget.* "

I am pleased to accept the Davis Calvin Wagner Award on behalf of the Sanitarians Joint Council members who envisioned the AIACS, as well as the original Board Members of the AIACS. I take this occasion to remind you of them and their efforts --
- *Lest We All Forget!*

Larry J. Gordon, 1984 Davis Calvin Wagner Award Recipient