

# In Memory of Elvis "Mac" Fishburn

30 April 2010

Today I learned we have lost a friend, a brother, a mentor, an early pioneer in modern day POL. It is so very hard to find any words at all, let alone words that would do justice to his memory. Those of us who grew up with him or worked side-by-side with him over the years grew not only to love the man and respect him for his kindness, his knowledge, his relentless dedication to the fuel handler but above all his passion for the mission.

Mac was the man we came to rely on to tell us what we needed to hear rather than what we wanted to hear. His wise counsel and storytelling attributes often times keeping us in awe.

I'm reminded of a time some 23 years ago when Mac was providing a then very powerful MAJCOM some technical guidance in T.O. 42B-1-1. As I recall the MAJCOM didn't necessary agree with his interpretation and sent a rather curt message that ended with that statement... "Chief Select" xxx sends. Mac politely set him straight and answered with... "Chief Retired" Mac Fishburn sends. <smile>

Mac was a man of great personal character, a role model, superb motivator, caring leader and great team player. He challenged us, he inspired us. He always took time to explain the science and chemistry as they related to the fuel quality programs he was working. He traveled the globe providing technical guidance and giving us a fuel quality program second to none.

He always stood in the shadows and let others shine when he was the one deserving center stage. It's been said that Great people have little use for fame or notoriety; they are consumed with productivity, not image. They do not feel the need to project their self-worth to anyone. They are content when the moment calls for them to be little, ordinary, or common - as long as the goal is achieved. Mac was that kind of person.

We will dearly miss him but never forget his lasting contributions. His DNA is all over Air Force Fuels and his memory is etched in the Fuels Quality Control program.

Thank you Mac... Sayonara old friend.

