



Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma

Advancing Science, Fostering Relationships, and Building Careers

2010-2011 Gavel Box Maintenance and Restoration Committee Report January 2011

Dr Henry Schiller was appointed by the President of EAST, Don Jenkins, as the sole member of the GBMRC. The GBMRC was convened because the gavel box itself had fallen into a slight state of disrepair. President Jenkins consulted with Past President Rotondo, who had initially commissioned the creation of the gavel box, regarding the deterioration of the gavel box. Given the advice to have the necessary repairs made and document them, President Jenkins consulted with Dr Schiller to find an appropriate craftsman in Rochester Minnesota.

Immediately, Dr Schiller identified Dr Philip R. Karsell as that master craftsman. Dr Karsell, an Emeritus radiologist from Mayo Clinic, is also a neighbor of Dr Schiller's and has a woodworking shop like none other and is renown for his skill.

Of significant note, when Dr. Schiller was deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq (several deployments), Dr Karsell saw to it that the morale of the unit to which Dr Schiller was assigned, was maintained by sending numerous 'morale packages' replete with magazines, candy and various sundry items to make living in the combat zone slightly less intolerable. In return, Dr Schiller presented Dr Karsell with a flag flown over the Forward Surgery Team hospital Dr Schiller worked in; Dr Karsell displayed that flag proudly in his front yard.

When Dr Karsell learned of the need to repair the EAST gavel box and the military significance of several of the pieces of the gavel box, he gladly accepted the charge to repair it. This he did of his free time and personal expense. The gavel box is as good as new and difficult to determine exactly where repairs were needed. As a token of appreciation for his role in the gavel box repairs, Dr Schiller suggested another flag flown over a combat zone military hospital would be in order as the original flag had become quite worn and tattered after many years of service. This was procured through the hard work and personal expense of Michael A. Ricci, COL, USAF, MC, FS, Vascular Surgery, 455th Expeditionary Medical Operations Squadron, Bagram Airbase, Afghanistan. The flag was accompanied by a certificate which read: From: Donald Jenkins, Col (ret.), USAF, Presented to: Phil Karsell, In appreciation of your support of the men and women of the armed services and the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma. Dr Karsell had his old flag 'retired' and new flag flown by his grandson and his Pack of brand new former Webelo, now full fledged Boy Scouts.

In order to limit the damage from shipping the gavel box in the future and again with the counsel from Past President Rotondo, President Jenkins commissioned the creation of two silk pillows embroidered with the EAST logo as Past President Rotondo had initially envisioned. This work was carried out the sister-in-law of 40-year Mayo employee and former secretary to Dr David Feliciano and Dr Peter Mucha, Nancy Owens.

The GBMRC is now sunset and President Jenkins, the Board of Directors and membership of EAST thank him for his work on this important project.