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GEORGE F. SHELDON, MD, FACS
Professor of Surgery and Social Medicine
Chair of Surgery (1984-2001)

September 21, 2010

Ben Eiseman, MD, FACS
Emeritus Professor of Surgery and Medicine
University of Colorado Medical School
1055 Clermont Street
Denver, CO 80262

Dear Ben,

I am pleased to be able to join others in congratulating you on the Society of University Surgeons' 2010 Life time Achievement Award. Your career of usefulness has spanned many eras and yet in all of them, you have lead, counseled, encouraged, and sometimes criticized. I recall our meeting in Florida in 1969 when you had just returned from VietNam with a report on the good work that the young trauma surgeons were doing. You subsequently organized the NIH/AAST and others for a symposium on the Respiratory Distress problems of the civilian and military. Called by a variety of names, i.e., the DaNang Lung, post traumatic respiratory distress syndrome, and eventually settling to ARDS, it was a monumental contribution. It wasn't, as you were fond of saying just pulmonary edema as in heart failure.

Your participation in every war in the 20th century (I think you missed the Spanish American War), was monumental. Your service to the military with many years on USUHS was part of that commitment. While you created some surgical giants like Frank Spencer, you created even a larger number of trainees, residents, and colleagues who were always better for having been with you, shared your joie de vivre, and your unrelenting enthusiasm and optimism.

My best to you always and thanks for what you've done for me over the years.

Sincerely,

George F. Sheldon, MD, FACS