



# ECHOS

Volume 12 Issue 1

February 2002

## Ben Vlassick

On Tuesday, 4 December, some AFTAC Alumni Association of Colorado (AAACO) members presented Ben Vlassick with a plaque in appreciation for all that he has done for the Alumni organization. Marianne Pierce initiated the idea of Ben's recognition at the Winter Social in November.



Earl presents the award to Ben

The Plaque reads:

*Ben Vlassick  
President  
1991 - 2001*

*Presented in Deep Appreciation and Gratitude for your  
Outstanding Leadership  
and your Friendship.*

*Colorado Chapter AFTAC Alumni Association.*



Jack Smith thanked Ben for all of his hard work. Jack is the newly elected president of the AAACO.

Ben passed away Christmas morning, and we will all miss him. He brought us all together for two reunions, one in 1996 and another in 2001. He demonstrated his commitment to camaraderie by coordinating annual picnics and winter socials. Ben set the standard for our gatherings. We all wish his wife Ginger, son Randy, and daughter Adriana our deepest sympathy.

Ginger sends:

Thank you all so much for the beautiful funeral spray.

Also we thank you all for the many cards, calls, e-mails, and all the caring shown Ben during his long battle.

Ginger and Family

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## Steering Committee Meeting Highlights

What Ben Vlassick called "the core group" met on 12 January to plan the next General Membership meeting and other AAACO events this year. Attendees were Jack Smith, Tom Miller, Bill Harris, Lonnie Gibbons, George Plunkard, Earl Pierce, Bill Schmied, Chuck Toner, and Bryce Dunn. After a good breakfast at the Plainsman III, the group decided to call the semiannual General Membership meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February at the Plainsman III. Other scheduled events include: a Golf Tournament and Picnic on 22 June, a gaming trip to Black Hawk on May 18<sup>th</sup> (tentative), and the annual Dinner Dance at the Buckley Camana Club on November 9<sup>th</sup> (also tentative). The group discussed publishing a Colorado recall roster and a general membership roster at the upcoming General Membership meeting. All participants agreed with the short notice decision to send flowers to Ben Vlassick's funeral. If any member wishes to send a contribution to reimburse AAACO for the flowers, contact Bill Schmied. Bill Harris agreed to publish the organization's calendar on the web page, [www.aftacco.org](http://www.aftacco.org).