
RETIRED TINKER EMPLOYEE INDUCTED INTO DLA HALL OF FAME

By Sherry West

Lt. Gen. Henry Glisson, Defense Logistics Agency Director, welcomed everyone to the third annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony recently held at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Mr. Paul D. Oliver was honored at the ceremony as he was inducted into the Hall of Fame for his exceptional leadership, selfless service, dedication to duty, and contributions in supporting the mission. He represents the very best heroes who individually and together have greatly enhanced our nation's military readiness as well as the quality of life for Service personnel. His friends Col Ralph Austin (Ret), and Ms. Faye Eades represented Mr. Oliver at the ceremony, as he was unable to attend the ceremony due to illness.

Mr. Oliver began his federal career during World War II, entering the U.S. Navy on May 8, 1945. In 1951, he began work at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, in the supply and distribution field where he remained until his retirement in 1997. Ironically the origin of the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) dates back to World War II also. Distribution functions were consolidated under DLA, due to the Defense Management Review Decision 902 in 1990, where Oliver concluded his career as Deputy Commander.

Mr. Oliver's leadership permeated all levels of the depot. He created a powerful leadership team that optimized depot operations and produced the best distribution product in DLA. His outstanding management techniques accentuated his unique ability to interact with people at all levels. Every Tinker associate knew Mr. Oliver personally. He was sensitive to their needs and understood how their duties and responsibilities affected the success of DDOO. He had an unsurpassed ability to impart this critical understanding to every employee, thereby instilling individual ownership of the mission. He developed a distribution depot recognized as a leader in its field. His many enduring contributions made in the course of 50 years of service represent an inspiring legacy of dedication, talent and personal responsibility.

Webster's definition of a hero is a man endowed with great strength or ability, one that shows great courage, a man admired for his achievements and noble qualities. Truly Paul Oliver is a hero.

His leadership skills were especially evident during the many challenges he faced during his career. When a major fire swept through the northern half of the massive, mile-long building 3001 that housed the en-

gine repair facilities, Mr. Oliver was instrumental in ensuring that engine repair facilities were rapidly relocated. Gen Burpee, the Air Logistics Center Commander, told Mr. Oliver to relocate repair facilities to two other buildings that housed distribution materials. That meant not only relocating engine repair operations, but also the contents of the two other buildings. Mr. Oliver negotiated with the Pentagon and got an authorization to lease a warehouse near the airport. He and his staff were able to move all the materials within one week. Mr. Oliver's inspirational leadership style instilled a "can do" spirit in his team, an attitude that no challenge was too big for his people to overcome.

Mr. Oliver also dealt with a sensitive Reduction In Force (RIF) of nearly 200 DDOO employees. To ease the impact of the RIF, he found positions for over 100 employees by moving them from DLA to the Air Force. His personal commitment to keep all his employees informed was instrumental in maintaining the facility's performance, despite the staffing cuts. Mr. Oliver's leadership was instrumental in making this smooth transition possible.

Mr. Oliver's willingness to apply new solutions to problems is why DDOO boasts some of the most innovative practices in DLA.

***Editor's note:** Defense Logistics Agency Hall of Fame inductee Paul D. Oliver passed away Oct. 29 at Baptist Hospital, where he was recovering from open-heart surgery.*

Mr. Paul D. Oliver

