



Outspan Shellhole

PO Box 28817, Newton Park, Port Elizabeth, 6045.

The District Old Bill – Settlers District Dugout

and

The Provincial Old Bill and Provincial Executive
Eastern Cape Provincial Dugout

10th November 2017

Attention: Provincial Adjutant

re: CERTIFICATE OF MERIT: 022057 MOTH SPENCER INGRAM BECKLEY

Greetings fellow Moths

Please find our proposal that Moth Spencer Ingram Beckley be awarded the Certificate of Merit.

CITATION

Spencer Ingram Beckley was born on the on the 26th of December 1954 in Port Elizabeth. In in the early 1960's the Beckley family moved to the former Rhodesia to pursue business interests. Young Spencer was schooled at Que Que Junior, and then attended Guinea Fowl Boys High School in Gwelo, where he achieved both academically and on the sports field. On completion of his schooling Spencer joined the Rhodesian Posts and Telecommunications where he was employed as a Telecommunications Technician specialising in switching and transmission systems.

With the Rhodesian Bush War escalating it wasn't long before Spencer received his call up papers and in 1973 he was drafted into the Rhodesian Regiment. After completion of his basic training he completed further junior leaders training and was appointed as a Non Commissioned Officer holding the rank of a Corporal. Like most young Rhodesian men Spencer was subjected to the "6 weeks in, 6 weeks out" system of part time service.

Spencer married his sweetheart Denise Hair on the 23rd of June 1979, and it was in this same year, shortly before "independence" that Spencer and Denise made the decision to move to South Africa and settle in the Eastern Cape. Spencer served the Rhodesian Regiment with distinction until 1980, when he cleared out of the Regiment and headed to Port Elizabeth. For his Service to the Rhodesian Armed Forces, Spencer was awarded the medals for General Service and the Zimbabwe Independence.

On their arrival in the Eastern Cape in September 1980, Spencer started working at Hella in Uitenhage as an Electronics Technician, and in late 1981 he joined Executive Communications as a Radio Technician where his knowledge of Radio Systems built up in in the Rhodesian Posts and Telecommunications stood him in good stead. In 1990 Spencer saw the opportunity to start his own Radio Communications business, and together with a partner, established Universal Communications 1990, which has for the last 28 years catered to the two-way radio needs of small, medium and large business in the Eastern Cape.

Spencer joined the MOTH on the 1st of September 2002. Outspan Shellhole was a natural choice for Spencer, as his father and uncle, as 2nd World War veterans were founding members of Outspan Shellhole in 1946 and built the foundations both literally and figuratively of this thriving Shellhole. It did not take the young Moth Beckley much time to become involved in the all Shellhole activities, and in 2004 Moth Beckley was installed as the Old Bill of Outspan Shellhole – the first of many Executive positions he would hold at Shellhole, District and Provincial levels.

It was under Old Bill Beckley's guidance that Outspan Shellhole entered its growth phase with membership increasing to around the 50 mark, and many Shellhole projects were initiated and driven to conclusion to improve the Shellhole and its immediate surroundings to the benefit of both the Moth and local community as a whole.

It was also at this time that the Ex-Serviceman's Club in Bird Street Port Elizabeth was sold, and Moth Beckley was appointed by Provincial Old Bill Mike Soutter to act as Chairman of the newly acquired Moth Memorial Centre in King Edward Street, Port Elizabeth. As Chairman, Moth Beckley was responsible for overseeing the conversion of this residential property to a fully functioning, self-sustaining Moth Memorial Centre.

In 2008 Moth Beckley became the Cape Eastern Provincial Deputy Old Bill and assisted the Provincial Old Bill with the formation of the new Eastern Cape Provincial Dugout when the provinces of the Border and Transkei and Cape Eastern joined. He was the Deputy Old Bill for two years and in this time, he also became the first Settlers District Old Bill.

In 2010 Moth Beckley was appointed as the Provincial Old Bill of the Eastern Cape Province, and in tradition of the Provincial Dugout, he held this position until he stepped down in 2013.

In 2013, after standing down as Provincial Old Bill, he was again appointed as Outspan Shellhole Old Bill, a position he held until June 2016. Despite all the service given to the Shellhole, District and Province, Moth Spencer still was not done, and offered his services to the Winston Churchill Moth Ex Serviceman's Cottage complex.

He was appointed as Chairman of the Winston Churchill Mesca Management Committee – a position he currently holds. Under his guidance the committee gives daily attention to administrative, maintenance and resident matters, and these two Mesca complexes are kept in top condition, and provide a safe and happy environment for all residents.

On the Moth Social front, over the years Moth Beckley has played a leading role in organising and participating in Raids, whether they be educational, or purely social in nature. He was also instrumental in establishing a forum that the local Shellholes attend once a month to co-ordinate the social calendar and fundraising activities in the District.

Moth Beckley has always been a promoter of the MOTH to the general public. Whether it be the organising of parades that are in the view of the public, or arranging social events that are specifically aimed at introducing The Order to the general public at large. An example of this would be the annual Kirkwood Wildsfees. In 2005 Moth Spencer negotiated with the organisers for the Moth to attend to the access control for this event. This annual event sees around 50 Moths from about 4 Shellholes manning the entrance gates at this festival. This has been ongoing for the past 12 years, with the Shellholes sharing the profits on a pro-rata basis. Moth Beckley's efforts have resulted in a turnover of around R350 000 over the past 12 years – much of it going into the coffers of participating Shellholes.

Moth Spencer Beckley has been a positive influence and enthusiasm and passion for the Moth cause has influenced many Moths positively, and those who have worked with him over the years understand and appreciate his contributions. For his exceptional work in promoting Mothdom and maintaining the three ideals at Shellhole, District and Provincial level Moth Beckley was awarded Certificate of Comradeship in 2004 and the Certificate of Excellence in 2007.

This citation will not be complete without recognizing the unwavering support that Moth Beckley has received throughout his Moth career from his wife Denise. Denise is herself a recipient of the Certificate of Good Comradeship, and her quiet and strong support for all Moth causes strengthens Moth Beckley's work for The Order – a fine example for many to follow.

It is therefore, without any hesitation, the Outspan Executive's proposes that Moth Spencer Ingram Beckley be awarded the MOTH Certificate of Merit.

PROPOSED BY OUTSPAN SHELLHOLE EXECUTIVE.

Supported and seconded by Settlers District Dugout and Signed on behalf:

(Moth Piet Kotze – District Old Bill)

Nominated by the Eastern Cape Provincial Dugout and signed on behalf:

(Moth Ozzie Van Oosten – Provincial Old Bill)