

## The Venerable Clam

AERS has a tradition of awarding the "Venerable Clam" at each meeting to a long standing member in attendance who has contributed to field and the society. The recipient of the award is required to adorn the clam with his or her signature, wear the Clam for the remainder of the meeting and be given the "knuckle salute" by all AERS members. While we chide the bearer of the Clam about being honored for being old, the true meaning of the word Venerable "calling forth respect through age, character, and attainments" is at the heart of this coveted award. The original Venerable clam was established circa 1976 in fond memory and through the inspiration of Dr. Don Lear. The clam, one valve of a *Mercenaria mercenaria* was placed in service for the society's 33rd year. The defining AERS logo created by then-member Anna Shaughnessy is inscribed on the original valve and the second valve which was awarded to Walter. The original clam (Valve I) bears the names of 29 awardees. Walter's name is the 3rd to adorn Valve II. The names of the "Venerabli" are listed below:  
Valve I (Retired Spring 2008)

A. J. Lippson  
Bennett Anderson  
Bette Bauereis  
Bob Christian  
Dave Carbo  
Dexter Haven  
Dick Wetzel  
Dick Williams  
Don Lear  
Frank Reilly  
Fred Sieling  
Harriette Phelps  
Jerry Williams  
John Kraeuter  
John McDermott  
Judith Stribling  
Kent Mountford  
Mario Vieira  
Mark Brinson  
Mel Carriker  
Mike Castagna  
Nelson Marshall  
Steve Rebach  
Steve Storms

Tom Carver  
Tom Jones  
Tommy Hopking  
Vic Kennedy  
W. J. Hargis

Valve II (Placed in service for AERS's 60th anniversary -Fall 2008)

Marria O'Malley-Walsh  
Iris Anderson  
Walter Boynton