



## **Ambassador (ret.) Thomas Boyatt**

### *Retiree Vice President*



I am fortunate to have had many years and varied activities to accumulate experience and make mistakes. 1956-59 - United States Air Force, 96th Bomb Wing, SAC. Entered the Foreign Service in 1959 as an FSO-8 and retired in 1984 as a Career Minister. During active duty I served in every cone and posts in four of the five geographic bureaus of my era. As a Vice Consul I did all the administrative and consular work at a two-person post, and as an Ambassador in Bogota I was on the front lines of the "War on Drugs." Along the way I received more than a fair share of recognition, the most meaningful to me being the Department's heroism award for returning to a plane about to be blown-up by the Palestinian guerrillas who had hijacked our aircraft; and much later AFSA's Lifetime Contributions to American Diplomacy award.

After retirement I spent 25 years in business as the Vice President of a large company (Sears World Trade), President of a small company (U.S. Defense Systems) and a partner in the IRC Consulting Group. I was also a member of several non-profits, most notably a Trustee of Princeton University in the mid-1980s. Accordingly, I acquired experience with a variety of governance schemes and commercial financial management. In the 1990s I brought lessons learned to DACOR, AFSA, ADST and the American Academy of Diplomacy. I was Treasurer or Finance Chair for all of those organizations at various times.

AFSA has been an important part of my life. I was Vice President when we won elections to represent State, AID and USIA in 1971-72; President 1972-75 as negotiations of personnel policies and procedures began in the three agencies, twice Treasurer, a Retiree Rep, and founder of the AFSA-PAC. I was born and raised in Wyoming, Ohio, received a BA from Princeton University and an MA from the Fletcher School of International Law & Diplomacy, and learned Spanish, French and Greek at FSI.

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