

Postcards from Iraq

BACK HOME TO NEW ORLEANS

by Edmay Mayers
New Orleans District

These past 21 months have been a wonderful, exciting and very rewarding adventure for me. I will always be thankful that I was given and took advantage of this great opportunity. My life has changed immensely by the people I have met here at Gulf Region South and especially by the children of Iraq. My heart has been touched by so many individuals from my co-workers, my special friend Robin Parks, to the my dear British friend, Tim Salthouse and my South African friend George Tyers of the Reconstruction Liaison Teams, to the precious children of Iraq, to my newest friend, John Connor.

It is amazing how many people come and go in your life here in Iraq. In those short 21 months I have wished a grand farewell to many friends that I will never forget, such as Jim Lockard, Jim Parks, Mike Scarano, Butch Marsalis, Nick Ash and our great leaders that I was blessed to serve under, Col. Larry McCallister and Col. Gary Johnston. I miss them very much.

Some I will see again and some our paths will probably never cross again but we can always look back at these times together as co-workers and especially as friends. I have been blessed with a great Iraqi friend, Mohammed Aliwi. He has been wonderful to me. He has taught me almost all he knows about photography. He is a good friend with whom I intend to stay in contact with and maybe someday in the future I will visit Iraq as a tourist and he will visit me in New Orleans. How grand that would be.

There is so much to do for the people of Iraq and I am very thankful and blessed that I have the opportunity to be a small part of this mission.

It is with great emotions I leave GRS and Iraq. But on the other hand, I will be returning to my wonderful family and children, Meri, Dale, Eddie and Kristie, my grandchildren, Kaci, Bradley, Kristin and Little Dale. I will also be very happy returning to my wonderful 83 year old mother, my brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews. It will be good to get back to the New Orleans District and all my co-workers and friends there too. I wish our new Commander, Col. Stephen Hill and all of GRS and its employees great success, happiness, safety and all God's blessings. You will always be in my prayers. Until we meet again. *Essayons!*



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