

Former weight-lifter, **Vilitati Qumivutia** on Saturday November 13<sup>th</sup> was inducted into the FASANOC, Fiji Sports Hall of Fame for 2010. Qumivutia was the first athlete to ever represent Fiji at an International weightlifting competition in 1962 during the Commonwealth Games held in Perth. He was also the Sportsman of the Year in 1966. This is the first inductee for weightlifting!!!!

Equally proud, Weightlifting Fiji's President, **Mr Atma Maharaj**, was conferred the Fiji Olympic Order.

### **2010 FIJI SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE**



**Mr Vilitati Silatolu Qumivutia (centre) Receives the award from H.E. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, President of the Rep. of Fiji, with Mr Vidhya Lakhani President of FASNOC standing on the left**

The 2010 Fiji Sports Hall of Fame Inductee is one of Fiji's foremost athletes **Mr VILITATI SILATOLU QUMIVUTIA**. He was the very first athlete to represent Fiji at an international competition of their chosen sport. Vilitati competed in 1962 at the 7<sup>th</sup> British Empire & Commonwealth Games held in Perth, Australia and was placed 4<sup>th</sup> in this event. The participation in Perth was only able to take place upon the formation of the sport in Fiji of which this athlete had a key roll in establishing.

Unfortunately, weightlifting was not part of the inaugural 1963 South Pacific Games in Suva. Despite this setback, Vilitati continued with his personal passion and went on to win a gold Medal at the 1966 South Pacific Games in Noumea, New Caledonia. (347.5kg), another Gold Medal at the 1969 South Pacific Games in Papua New Guinea (365kg) and a Silver Medal at the 1971 South Pacific Games in Tahiti (367kg). His prowess earned him a number of awards and recognitions. These included the 1966 FASA Sportsman of the Year, 1966 Fiji Team captain, and was the flag bearer at the 1969 SPGames. The last official duty for Vilitati was as Section Manager of Team Fiji at the 2003 South Pacific Games in Suva.

He continues a keen interest in his sport and was seen just about every day at the Oceania Weightlifting Championships hosted by Fiji earlier this year. For his great achievements in the sport of Weightlifting,

FASANOC is proud to induct **VILITATI SILATOLU QUMIVUTIA** into the **FIJI SPORTS HALL OF FAME** in 2010.

### **2010 FIJI OLYMPIC ORDER RECIPIENT**



**"What a smile" Atma Maharaj receives The Fiji Olympic Order by H.E. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, President of the Republic of Fiji.**

**Mr ATMA MAHARAJ**, President of Weightlifting Fiji, on Saturday November 13<sup>th</sup> received **"THE FIJI OLYMPIC ORDER"** from FASANOC for his immense commitment to sport in Fiji. An intelligent strategic thinker – these are the words the recipient was described as in the nomination. Atma, for many years has been able to identify and nurture young talented athletes and put them through excellent development programs. Athletes who have benefited from Atma's involvement include Tony Philp (Sailing), Isireli Naikelikelivesi, Jone Delai, Rachel Rogers, Makelesi Bulikiobo of the sport of Athletics and young weightlifter Manueli Tulo, to name but a few. Atma is obsessed with ensuring that things are done properly and on time and is able to use these skills as was done in 2003 South Pacific Games where a Sponsorship and Marketing plan was put together and implemented to attain sponsorship in excess of \$12m (twelve million dollars). This enabled the Organising Committee to raise funds which were required to run a very successful Games, establishing new standards and creating new industries in Sports Sponsorship, Event Management, Corporate Hospitality and Outdoor signage.

Atma has a distinguished record of service with sports organisations and with FASANOC. Athletics, Football, Netball, Sailing, Weightlifting, Swimming and countless other sports bodies have received assistance from him, all on a voluntary basis. He has helped create suitable programs for the Pacific Games Council, Olympic Solidarity, Fiji Sports Council and several National Olympic Committees and Pacific Games Associations.

***On behalf of the Oceania Weightlifting Federation we congratulate both gentlemen in being duly recognized for their outstanding contribution to sport.***