

Received Award

1990

18 July 90

MEMORANDUM

From: Air Boatswain, USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72)  
To: President, Aviation Boatswain's Mates Association  
Subj: NOMINATION FOR ABMA "LIVING LEGEND" AWARD ICD/ABCM WILLIE GANN,  
USN (RET)

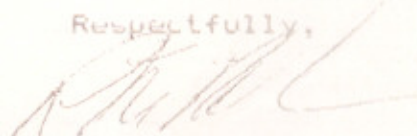
1. I have reviewed all rules and regulations pertaining to subject award and certify the above named nominee meets all eligibility requirements.
2. Certainly there are numerous individuals who have distinguished themselves through their service as Aviation Boatswain's Mates, but none have contributed more time and selfless devotion to the AB community at large than Willie Gann.
3. Since June 1948, Willie Gann has been continuously involved in the AB community. He served his country and his Navy on active duty for more than a quarter century, attaining the grade of Master Chief Aviation Boatswain's Mate. The following is a chronological list of his assignments:
  - June 1948 - Joined U. S. Navy.
  - August 1948 - Reported to USS Valley Forge (CV 45) and participated in initial air strikes on North Korea.
  - April 1951 - Reported aboard USS Antietam (CV 36) for Recommissioning.
  - November 1952 - Reported to Naval Air Mobile Training Detachment, San Diego as a Crash Firefighting Instructor.
  - April 1954 - Reported to Chase Field, Beeville, Texas for recommissioning of that facility.
  - May 1956 - Reported to USS Hornet (CVA 12).
  - January 1960 - Reported to NATTU Philadelphia, PA. as an instructor for AB school.
  - October 1962 - Reported to USS Ticonderoga (CVA 14).
  - April 1965 - Reported to USS Coral Sea (CVA 43) and participated in first extended air strikes against North Vietnam.
  - August 1965 - Reported to Airpac ALRE Training Team.
  - August 1967 - Reported to NATTC Lakehurst Del West.
  - January 1970 - Reported to Airpac Staff.

August 1973 - Retired from active duty as ABDM.

3. In 1971, Willie Gann was present at the first Aviation Boatswain's Mates Reunion held in San Diego, California. He was elected Treasurer of the fledgling ABMA and since that time has served continuously in that capacity in the administrations of 13 ABMA presidents. He has been the cornerstone of the association for twenty years. He ensures continuity in not only financial management, but also in matters of sales, taxes, and membership, while remaining the undisputed corporate memory for all governing matters. Simply stated, the ABMA would not be the organization it is today were it not for Willie Gann. He has organized, motivated, and taken care of countless AB's over the years, often without the recognition he so richly deserves.

4. While I fully recognize that there are several truly legendary figures within the ranks of the ABMA, I know of no other living Aviation Boatswain's Mate who has given of himself so selflessly. I know of no other who epitomizes those virtues of dedication, hardwork, and brotherhood for which the ABMA has become renown. I know of no other whose name is more recognizable within our community. I know of no other who is more deserving to be recipient of THE ABMA'S First "Living Legend" Award than Willie Gann.

Respectfully,



R. M. Henderson  
CW04 USN