

1993

FROM: DAVID DEESE L-116
TO: PRESIDENT AVIATION BOATSWAINS MATE ASSOCIATION (ABMA)
SUBJECT: 1993 ABMA LIVING LEGEND AWARD NOMINEE
HARRY L. CLAAR, LCDR (AB LDO) RETIRED
ENCLOSURE: HARRY L. CLAAR BIOGRAPHY

1. MR. HARRY L. CLAAR IS SUBMITTED AS A CANDIDATE FOR CONSIDERATION AND SELECTION AS THE ABMA 1993 LIVING LEGEND AWARD. MR. CLAAR'S BIOGRAPHY, ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE AVIATION BOATSWAINS MATE RATE AND THE ABMA ARE OUTLINED IN THE ATTACHED ENCLOSURE.

2. HARRY CLAAR WAS A PIONEER IN THE AB RATE. DURING HIS DISTINGUISHED CAREER (E-1 TO O-4) WHICH SPANNED 3 WARS, HE CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO ESTABLISHING THE SAFE AND EFFICIENT FLIGHT DECK, FIRE FIGHTING AND CRASH/SALVAGE PROCEDURES USED BY OUR AVIATION BOATSWAINS MATES TODAY. HE HAS EXTENSIVE OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCES WITH THE STRAIGHT DECK, ANGLE DECKS (CHARLIE CLASS) AND FORRESTAL CLASS AIRCRAFT CARRIERS BOTH IN WAR AND PEACE TIME CONDITIONS. HARRY CLAAR IS A DYNAMIC LEADER AND TEACHER WHO IS HIGHLY RESPECTED AND ADMIRER BY EVERY AB WHO HAS WORKED WITH AND FOR HIM.

3. A MAN OF THE HIGHEST INTEGRITY WHO HAS SET THE EXAMPLE DURING BOTH HIS MILITARY AND CIVILIAN CAREERS. A DEDICATED FAMILY MAN, HAPPILY MARRIED TO HIS WIFE LEONA (SIS) FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS.

4. HE IS A LIFE MEMBER AND AVID SUPPORTER OF THE ABMA AND THE ABMA OBJECTIVES SINCE FIRST FORMED. ALSO AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE ABMA, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER.

5. HARRY CLAAR'S ATTACHED BIOGRAPHY PRESENTS HIS BACKGROUND FROM E-1 SEAMAN RECRUIT TO O-4 LCDR (AB LDO) FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

RESPECTFULLY,

David S. Deese
DAVID S. DEESE L-116
5/10/93

BIOGRAPHY FOR
HARRY LAMOIN CLAAR
LCDR AB LDO RETIRED

ACTIVE SERVICE: US NAVY 7 DEC 1937 - 1 JUL 1969 (31 YEARS 8 MONTHS)

CAREER: E-1 TO E-7 CPO
O-1 TO O-4 LCDR (LDO)

SHIP ASSIGNMENTS: 8 AIRCRAFT CARRIERS

USS ENTERPRISE CV-6	USS MIDWAY CVB-41
USS HORNET CV-8	USS YORKTOWN CVA-10
USS MIDWAY CVB-41	USS RANGER CVA-61
USS LEYTE CV-32	USS TICONDEROGA CVA-14

CAREER SPANNED WW II - KOREA - VIETNAM

WW II (SERVED AT):

- PEARL HARBOR ATTACK 7 DEC 41
- ATTACKS ON JAPANESE HELD ISLANDS (MARSHALLS, KWAJALEIN, OTHERS)
- ESCORTED USS HORNET TO BOMB TOKYO
- BATTLE OF MIDWAY
- BATTLE OF GUADALCANAL
- BATTLE OF SAVO ISLAND
- AFRICA
- BERMUDA

KOREA:

- USS YORKTOWN (FLT DECK CHIEF)

VIETNAM:

- USS TICONDEROGA CVA-14 (FLT DK BOS'N)
- NAF ATSUGI, JAPAN

DUTIES: BLUE SHIRT TO FLT DK CPO
FLT DK BOS'N TO FLT DK OFFICER
PLANE CAPTAIN
COMBAT CREWMAN

WOUNDED AT: ATTACK OF PEARL HARBOR
BATTLE OF GUADALCANAL

AWARDS: (30 AWARDS TOTAL)

PURPLE HEARTS (2 STARS)
NAVY COMMENDATION, COMBAT V
GOOD CONDUCT - SILVER STAR
AMERICAN DEFENSE (FLEET)
ASIATIC PACIFIC (8 STARS)
EUROPEAN THEATRE (1 STAR)
CHINA SERVICE

WORLD WAR II VICTORY MEDAL
KOREAN SERVICE (2 STARS)
UNITED SERVICE
VIETNAM SERVICE
PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION -
(USS ENTERPRISE)
NAVY UNIT CITATION -
(USS YORKTOWN)

HARRY LAMOIN CLAAR
UNITED STATES NAVY — 1937-1969

7 December 1937 Enlisted USN, Baltimore, MD
15 March 1938 Graduated Boot Camp, Norfolk, VA
12 Mar-May 1938 Temporary assignment USS Arkansas (BB 46?)
12 May 1938 Commission USS Enterprise CV 6 at NOB, Norfolk, VA
April 1939 Enterprise traversed Panama Canal for San Diego
Aug 1939 Arrived Pearl Harbor as Adm. Halsey's flag ship of Hawaiian detachment. Promoted to Seaman 1C
Feb 1940 Promoted to Aviation Machinists Mate 3/C
Oct 1940 Promoted to AMM 2/C
Nov 1941 Promoted to AMM 1/C. Father died. Reenlisted for 4 years
Dec 1, 1941 Assigned TAD at Ford Island as Utility Unit PO in Charge. Ship departed for Wake Island with 12 USMC F4F fighter planes.
Dec 7, 1941 Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. I was burned and hit with shrapnel while manning a 30-cal machine gun in rear cockpit of SOC3 aircraft
Dec 8, 1941 Ship returned to Pearl Harbor, picked up me and two others, refueled and got underway
Dec 1941 - Mar 1942 Attacked Marshall Island, Kwajalein, and other Japanese-held islands
Apr 1942 Escorted USS Hornet to bomb Tokyo
June 1942 Battle of Midway
Aug 1942 Battle of Guadalcanal
Aug 24, 1942 Attacked by 140 Japanese aircraft. Hit three times. Shrapnel in left knee. Ship withdrew to Tonga.
Sep 1942 Battle of Savo Island
Oct 1942 Ship arrived Pearl Harbor for repairs
Nov 1942 Orders to Chicago, IL for turret school
Dec 1942 Arrived Chicago
Mar 1943 Married Leona Jane Imhoff
Apr 1943 VP15
May 1943 Africa
June 1943 Bermuda
Nov 1943 Norfolk, Headquarter Squadron
June 1943 Promoted CPO
Nov 1943 - Sep 1944 Aircraft Service Group Atlantic Fleet
Apr 1945 Orders to Combat Air Crew Training, Hutchinson, KS and Norman, OK
Jun 1945 Plane captain (FLTCREW on PB4Y2 Privateer
Aug 1945 Ordered USS Midway CVB41
Sep 1947 Ordered recruiting duty, Marion, IL
June 1948 Ordered USS Leyte CV32
May 1949 Ordered USS Midway CVB41
Nov 1949 Ordered Navy Personnel School, Recruiting NTC San Diego
Dec 1949 Assigned to NRS, St. Louis, MO, and Marion, IL. Changed rate to Aviation Boatswain Mate
Oct 1952 Ordered USS Yorktown CVA10 for re-comm crew
Nov 1956 Orders to Fleet Training Command, San Diego Naval Station

Aug 1958	Orders to Midway Island
Jan 1960	Orders USS Ranger CVA61
Feb 1961	Orders to Pensacola, FL for OCS
Apr 1961	Promoted to Lt(jg). Ordered to USS Ticonderoga CVA14
Jul 1964	Ordered Fleet Training Center, San Diego. Promoted to Lt
Apr 1966	Ordered NAS Atsugi, Japan
June 1968	Promoted LCDR
July 1969	Retired

Purple Hearts (2 stars)
Navy Commendation, Combat V
Good Conduct - Silver Star
American Defense (Fleet)
Asiatic Pacific (8 stars)
European Theatre (1 star)
China Service
World War II Victory Medal
Korean Service (2 stars)
United Service
Vietnam Service
Presidential Unit Citation (USS Enterprise)
Navy Unit Citation (USS Yorktown)