

This year's Living Legend is a well-known life member of the ABMA and a dedicated AB throughout his military career as well as in his retirement. His career began in June 1960 graduating NTC San Diego, CA in September of 1960. His first assignment took him onboard the USS Lexington-CVA-16 making the last two cruises from Sept. 1960 to July 1962. He then went on for a brief tour ashore, but in the Eskimo country at U.S. Naval Station Kodiak, Alaska until September 1963. Realizing that was not enough of the good life he was beginning to enjoy he re-enlisted in November of 1963 and was promoted to ABH2 and took assignment to USS Boxer, LPH-4 through January 1966. Looking for a new challenge in his young career he took orders to NAS Whidbey Island, Wa. as an instructor in Survival School and was subsequently promoted to ABH1 in March of 1966.

Deciding to put his teachings to the test his next assignment took him to Vietnam in February 1969 through July 1970 as a River Boat Gun Captain. During this tour he was promoted to Chief Petty Officer making 211 missions he earned the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V". Participating in 190 combat patrols and numerous special operations, medical evacuations, and medical civic action programs. He came under hostile fire on five separate occasions while patrolling enemy infested VAN CO TAY River and was wounded in combat. He was awarded the PURPLE HEART on January 7, 1970 having been there and done that with the scars to prove it. He went on in July of 1970 to August of 1973 to FASTRAGRUPAC DET. Cubi as a Senior Instructor for jungle survival and was subsequently promoted to Senior Chief Petty Officer.

In August 1973 he went to VAQ 130 in Alameda, CA as Line Division Officer. He was promoted to CWO1 in April 1974. His next assignment now as a newly promoted Warrant Officer (Air Bos'n) and with 13 years service under his belt, he went aboard the USS Enterprise CVAN-65 as Crash and Salvage Officer in April 1974. Exactly one year later, in April 1975 he was promoted again to CWO2. In June of 1977 he returned to NAS Whidbey Island as the Fire School Training Officer and being the fast mover he was, he made and was promoted to CWO3 in July of 1978. In December 1979 he yearned for some more sea duty and was assigned to USS Forrestal CV-59 as the Crash and Salvage Officer. Upon leaving Forestall, this Legend has culminated 20 years of service. From April 1981 to June 1982 he was assigned to NAS Key West, Fl. as the Air Field Security Officer. In July of 1981 promoted to CWO4. In June 1982 to 1985 he was assigned to NAVAIRSYSCOM, Washington, D.C. to the Aircraft Firefighting Coordinator, Ship and Shore Installation Division making in excess of over 200 agenda items/changes to the Aircraft Firefighting and Rescue NATOPS Manual. Realizing the much needed revision to the existing Firefighting Training Film he helped develop the new shipboard Aircraft Firefighting Training in use today and up-graded the Firefighting proximity clothing. Through this individual's efforts, Navy Fire Protection Programs are what they are today. H sets the standards. In June of 1985 to July 1988 he was assigned to Naval Air Technical Training Center, Millington, TN as the Training and Project Officer. Instrumental in the 100% design development of the Naval Firefighting

simulated carrier deck, Fire Fighting Facility. Instrumental in establishing the new Navy Enlisted Classification Code for personnel and the ABH rating which readily identifies aircraft fire and salvage specialists in the Navy, NEC 7011. He also was instrumental in establishing a permanent CWO4 billet at Chief of Naval Technical Training as Aircraft Firefighting training (TPC). This dedicated AB, along with another fellow AB, recommended the establishment of the AB LIVING LEGEND, and post-humous legend. This AB retired July 1, 1988 and is now living in Tennessee and is working for Hughes Corp. maintaining the Live Fire fighter training devices at the AB School, Millington, TN. During his successful career he has continuously displayed the highest traditions and dedication to Aviation Boatswain's Mates, Naval aviation, aircraft firefighting and the US Navy. I would now like to present to you, THE 1995 SILVER ANNIVERSARY AB LIVING LEGEND, CWO 4, RETIRED, EDWARD DALE HAYES.