



AVIATION BOATSWAIN'S MATES ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2004



From the President - Lt. Doug Thornton

Greetings Fellow AB's;

I hope this newsletter is finding you in the very best of health and doing quite well! It is truly an honor to be writing this articles as your President of the Greatest Association in the Navy, the Aviation Boatswain's Mates Association. To stand in the position of the many great Reunion Chairmen and past Presidents that have lead this great Association is quite a humbling experience. I sincerely appreciate your vote of confidence in me and all of your support.

Over the past 60 years when ever there was a conflict or confrontation, any where around the world, the President of the United States have asked, "Where are the carriers?" But in essence they were asking "Where are the AB's?" because without the AB's, the carriers are powerless. The same applies to all our "L-class" ships as well. Most importantly, we as AB's have never let any of the US Presidents down.

I want to thank the Sand Diego Chapter for an awesome job they did with this year's Symposium/Professional Working Group Conference at the Westin Hotel in downtown San Diego. I heard nothing but outstanding comments and that everyone that attended had a great time. Outstanding Job well done!

I know the Tidewater Chapter is hard at work preparing for next year's Symposium/Professional Working Group Conference, which will be held at the Doubletree Hotel, 1900 Pavilion Drive, Virginia Beach, Virginia, August 1st through the 5th.

I also want to say "Congratulations" to our "AB of The Year" for the East Coast; ABFI (AW/SW) Alvaro D. Williams and the West Coast; ABH1 (AW/SW) Ronnie A. Padilla. Our "2004 Living Legend"; LT(Ret) Clayton J. "CJ" Heard and our "2004 Posthumous Living Legend; ABHC (Ret) Donald A. "Tiny" Alexander. And also our recipient of the Isabella M. Gillen Memorial Scholarship Melissa Estrada.

I would also like to congratulate our new LDO's. Warrants and Chief Petty Officers, as well as those that were promoted throughout the year.

There's also a group of personnel that have supported our organization for many years and have always been the backbone of this great Association , and that's the retirees. Thanks to each and every one of you for your continued support and guidance over the years. Without you this organization wouldn't be as strong as it is today.

Another group of personnel that have been there for us over the years is the vendors. They have always been there to help us along with their products and services and have contributed significantly to covering the cost of the symposiums. A hardy "Thanks" to all those vendors that help make our symposiums possible.

Please keep in your prayers those that have lost loved ones, or those that have suffered severe devastation from the horrific hurricanes and tornadoes this year.

As we make our way to Virginia Beach, Virginia for next year's ABMA Symposium/Professional Working Group Conference, let's keep up the recruiting campaign and continue getting our junior Sailors involved. Remember they are our future. God Bless each and every one of your and may God bless America.

A Fellow AB; Doug Thornton -President

Freedom Is Not Free - By Major Kelly Strong



I watched the flag pass by one day, it fluttered in the breeze. A young man in uniform saluted it, and then he stood at ease. I looked at him in uniform - so young, so tall, so proud, With hair cut square and eyes alert, he'd stand out in the crowds. I thought how many men like him have fallen through the years? How many died on foreign soil? How many mother's tears? How many pilots' planes shot down? How many died at sea? How many foxholes were soldiers' graves? No, freedom is not free. I heard the sound of taps one night, when every thing was still. I listened to the bugler play and felt a sudden chill. I wondered just how many times that taps had meant, "Amen "When a flag had draped a coffin of a brother or a friend. I thought of all the children, of mothers and the wives of fathers, sons and husbands, with interrupted lives. I thought about a graveyard at the bottom of the sea, of unmarked graves in Arlington,

No, freedom is not free—GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS





AVIATION BOATSWAINS MATES
ASSOCIATION
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JAPAN

ABH1 Severin



AVIATION BOATSWAINS MATES ASSOCIATION

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From the Vice President - R.D. Jones

Greetings Shipmates and fellow AB's. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for re-electing me as Vice President. I am privileged to continue working with our new President Doug Thornton. Hope to see you all in Virginia Beach.

R. D. Jones



From the Treasurer - Stoney Burke

What a SUPER Professional Working Group Conference and Symposium. The San Diego Chapter did a GREAT job! From the membership table to the events and merchandise tables and through the hospitality room, every TASK was very Professionally done.

I personally want to THANK ALL OF YOU WHO HELPED, ESPECIALLY THE FLEET SAILORS FROM THE USS NIMITZ AND OTHERS, MADE MY STAY —WONDERFUL! Another GREAT achievement was OVER 30 COMMANDS had representatives at the conference. Recorded Registrants only numbered 300. I think that having registration with membership may have been the problem. A lot of attendee's probably Life members did not register because of the membership table being at the same location. EVERYONE PLEASE REGISTER!! ALL memberships from the conference have been mailed. Did not get yours?? Had several returned due to INCORRECT ADDRESSES... Let me know.

Arle Sinks took ill during the conference and was taken to the hospital. Arle returned after a day. Noticeable absentee's were Bob Gillen and his significant other Donna Haggerty. Donna was down with treatment for lung cancer and Bob stayed with her during her trying times. We have since lost Donna, as she made her way to join the Big AB. Bob, hope you are doing OK, we shall miss Donna. Missed going to the Little Club in Coronado (my old watering hole).

The Board of Directors kept me busy doing stuff so I did not make it. We did not make any money in San Diego (that's two, we did not make anything in Pax River last year). A few more Vendors would have helped. Know a Vendor, have them contact ABCM Retired Marty Chapel and lets bring them on-board.

FLORIDA had its share this past year with all the Hurricanes... Have talked to some folks and heard of some of the damage. Captain McFarlane sent pictures... have not heard of any AB LOSS OF LIFE... God Bless...Makes New England sound like a good place to live. The Tidewater Chapter is well underway with preparations for 2005. Looking forward to returning to the Tidewater Area and some visits with friends that I have not seen lately, especially my son and his family. ABEC Charlie Mansson on CVN-69.

We will be headquartered at the DOUBLETREE Hotel in Virginia Beach. For those that could not make San Diego, hope to see you in Tidewater. If not, then in 2006 somewhere in the Pensacola area.

All my best
Stoney Burke



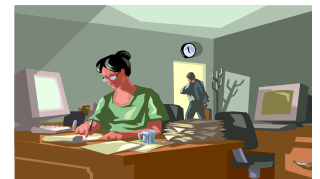
From the Secretary - Terry Santiago

First let me say Thanks and a job well done to the San Diego Chapter for their excellent job on the Symposium. Everything you did was superb, and we all really had a great time.

Secondly – I want to apologize for the delay in getting this newsletter out. We had some unfortunate events happen that contributed to the delay. My computer crashed last Fall, as did our President's. We had to retrieve files. Many of the inputs were received late. But with a lot of help we were able to get it done.

Thirdly – I look forward to seeing you all in Norfolk in August. Thanks for your patience.

Terry



Chaplin's Corner

Hello shipmates,

Your ABMA Chaplin here. It has been a busy time for all of us since the wonderful symposium in San Diego.

As we look to the Norfolk area for the 2005 meeting, much has happened. Several dear retired AB's have secured from flight quarters and departed the pattern. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families. Many other AB's are in poor health and not doing so well. This can be a lesson for all of us that need to make life changes to get with the program. Life only comes one time and you only get one chance to get it right. The most important decision you can make is accepting Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and savior. If it was not for a good neighbor of mine sharing the Gospel that "Jesus Saves" back in 1989, I would be dead right now. I love all of you and I know that God has a special place in his heart for AB's. If anyone has a prayer request, someone in the hospital, or if there is anything I can do to help someone, please contact me. Take care, God bless, and we'll see you in Norfolk!!

ABHC/AW Thomas E. Lamb

ABMA Chaplin e-mail: thomas.e.lamb@navy.mil





AVIATION BOATSWAIN'S MATE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2004



Public Affairs Officer - Doug Thornton

Greetings Fellow AB's;

I hope this Newsletter is finding you in the very best of health and doing quite well!

I want to remind everyone that the Thirty-fifth Annual Aviation Boatswain's Mate Association (ABMA) sponsored Symposium/ Professional Working Group Conference will be held at the Doubletree Hotel, 1900 Pavilion Drive, Virginia Beach, Virginia August 2nd. through the 5th. There will be a picnic following on Saturday the 6th of August at NALF Fentress Field. The Tidewater Chapter is hosting the Symposium/ Professional Working Group Conference. Rooms have been blocked for the ABMA from July 31st. To August 7th. For reservations call 1-800-222-Tree (8733), or (757) 422-8900, Fax (757) 422-0039, Website www.double.com. Be sure to use the code ABM to get the best rate for the rooms. Hope to see you there!

I also want to put out information on chapter meetings. If you're traveling and in the local vicinity of one of the chapters on the day of their meeting please feel free to stop in. For actual meeting times please contact the local chapter Presidents, if not listed.

The chapter meetings, membership dues and Presidents are held as follows:

Jacksonville Chapter; Jacksonville , FL:

3rd Thursday of each month, contact the President for location.

Membership is \$6.00 per year.

President – ABHC (Ret) Joe Santiago

Lakehurst Chapter; Lakehurst, NJ:

16th of each month, held at the Community Center in Lakehurst.

Membership is \$2.00 per month

President – ABEC Prazeau

Gulf Coast Chapter; Pensacola, FL:

3rd Thursday of each month, held at the Moose Lodge at 1900. President – ABHC Tim Knauber

San Diego Chapter; San Diego, CA:

1st Thursday of each month, held at the VFW in Chula Vista on the corner of 3rd and I street. At 1930.

Member ship is \$10.00 per year

President – LT Doug Thornton

Tidewater Chapter; Norfolk, VA:

Mid month 3rd Tuesday or Wednesday, held at CNATTU Norfolk or Oceana Air Ops (alternating between two places) at 1100.

Membership \$5.00 per year. Life Membership available 50% of the National's price by age.

President – ABCM Kely Charles

Central Valley AB's

West Texas Chapter; TX:

2nd Friday of each month, held at the DOD Firefighting Academy.

Membership is \$12.00 per year

President ABH1/AW Michael Morgan

Pax River Chapter; Patuxent River, MD:

2nd week, contact the President for location.

Membership is \$8.00 per year.

President – CWO2 Rodney Chisholm

AB's - Great Northwest; Bremerton, WA:

Contact Dave Deese for date and location to get together.

Far East Region, Japan:

Lets continue to bring in the junior AB's and get them involved. Keep your head on a swivel and stay safe!

God bless each and every one of you and may God bless America.

Doug Thornton





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JAX Chapter

We here in Jax have had a difficult year. Our membership is very small and we lost one of our regular helping, wonderful members, John "Yogi" Baer, in November. It was a shock to all of us. We are trying to keep the Chapter going, but are having a very hard time getting participation. We have been trying to get membership from the USS Kennedy, but with her future unknown, it has been very difficult. We are now planning for our annual Spring Jam at the Suwannee River (flyer enclosed). This is our biggest event and we put all of our efforts into it. We hope to see you all there.

Joe Santiago ABHC/AW—Retired
Jax Chapter President

Vice-President—Vacant
Secretary - Terry Santiago
Treasurer—Gail Layton

Tidewater Chapter

First off, we want to thank the AB's of San Diego for the outstanding job they did putting this year's Symposium/Working Group Conference together. Those of us that had the opportunity to make the trip had a great time! Thanks! The Tidewater Chapter ABMA is doing very well. We are proud to have our national Vice-President, CDR RD Jones as the Chairmen for the 2005 symposium, which will be held here in the Norfolk area. The Chapter held a softball I tournament for all the aviation commands throughout the Tidewater area on 13 Oct 04. It was a great moment for all the AB's and the Chapter members to assemble together, and enjoy a great event. There were eight teams altogether in the tournament. The USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT took 1st place, USS IWO JIMA 2nd, and USS GEORGE WASHINGTON 3rd. As a reminder, the 2005 ABMA Symposium will be held at the Doubletree Hotel located at 1900 Pavilion Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23451. For reservations call 1-800-222-TREE (8733), (757) 422-8900, Fax: (757) 422-0039. Website: www.doubletree.com. Interested personnel can start booking their reservations at this time. **Be sure to use the code ABM to get the best rate for rooms.** Continue to stay safe! Keep your head on a swivel!

ABCM (AW/SW) - Kely Charles - Chapter President

Gulf Coast Chapter

Pensacola and surrounding areas is still trying to pick up the pieces from Ivan, which was one of the worst hurricanes that has hit here. And we would like to express our thanks and gratitude for all the folks that came to lend a hand in our time of need. We had help from as far away as Quebec Canada and we are very grateful for all of them. Words can never be enough for your kindness. And since Ivan left us in such shambles and everyone is trying to get their selves back together, there is not a place in this town that was not touched in one way or another by the hurricane. (Lots of homeless folks left without a place to call home). To our regret we had to cancel the fall Jamboree, but we are all looking forward to the Spring Jam that Jax will be hosting down on the great Suwannee River.

So until we all meet again take care of yourself and each other.

Gulf Coast Chapter

Lakehurst (Mother) Chapter

A lot has transpired in the past year. First of all, several of our active duty members were fortunate to make the Working Group in San Diego. A good time was had by all, both during the working sessions and on liberty. Many, many thanks to the San Diego Chapter and Fleet units for an outstanding week!! BRAVO ZULU!! A couple of transfers have happened... Lt Fabrice Queneherve (French Navy Officer from the French aircraft carrier Charles De Gaulle, attached to our Fleet Liaison Office here at NAVAIR Lakehurst) and his lovely wife Florence have transferred back to France. Fabrice will be attending their equivalent to our Post-Graduate School, prior to a further assignment. Relieving Fabrice and Florence is Lt Frederic Tizzoni and his lovely wife Valerie. Its almost like we did not lose anyone... Fred and Valerie have settled right in and participate with us at all our functions. By the time this newsletter hits the street, we will have retired NAVAIR Lakehurst's Fleet Liaison Officer, CWO3 (BOSN) Edward DeWayne Conley. We will miss having DeWayne around, especially at "Wing Night" at the Flight Deck Lounge. DeWayne is being relieved by CWO5 (Select) Harold E. Hall. A couple of our shipmates, ABEC Joe and Gwen Osborn and NAVAIR's AB of the Year, ABE1 Keith and Penny Bowden are transferring to USS Enterprise (CVN-65), in early 2005. Joe Osborn is being relieved by ABEC Ray Northern. We shall miss you guys.....Late in June, we bid a sad farewell to our beloved "Archie" (CWO4 Retired, ABMA Life Member and Living Legend Robert John Archibald III) who has lost his battle with lung cancer. It was a sad week for all of us. Arch has always been a beloved member and founder of the Mother Chapter. Arch is with the Big AB discussing fleet matters and the world at large. We all will miss you, shipmate, but do not despair; Marion and the rest of the family are in good hands with all of us around. We will miss having you around especially at Symposium time, but we will toast the time we had, both good and the bad. Godspeed Shipmate!!!! Many, many THANKS to the Commanding Officer, ALRE BOSM Anthony Hughes and the Officers and Sailors from Great Ship USS Nimitz (CVN-68) for flying our National Ensign over Nimitz in honor of Arch. Archie Nimitz' FIRST ALRE BOSN. The Flag and Certificate will be cherished additions to the Family and on behalf of the family, THANK YOU NIMITZZ!!! As of latest communications all of our AB families in Hurricane ravaged areas have survived albeit except property damage. I am sure we are all glad to hear that. Keep ALL HANDS IN HARM'S WAY in your prayers. Hope to see everyone in Tidewater next August. Have a Great Holiday Season and a Very Happy New Year.

Members of the Mother (Lakehurst) Chapter



AVIATION BOATSWAINS MATES ASSOCIATION

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San Diego Chapter

Greetings from sunny San Diego;

I want to thank everyone that had a chance to make it here for this year's Symposium/Professional Working Group Conference. We hope everyone had a great time.

I know the Tidewater Chapter is working hard preparing for next year's Symposium/Professional Working Group Conference in Virginia Beach. We are all looking forward to being there in Virginia next year.

We'd also like to welcome the USS Ronald Reagan our newest carrier to San Diego! Upon your arrival you became a great asset to our chapter and it is greatly appreciated. Also, we'd like to welcome home the USS John C. Stennis from its deployment.

We just had our elections and our new officers are:

President—LT Doug Thornton

Vice-President—LTJG Al Guajardo

Secretary—ABF1 (SW) Roberto Venegas

Treasurer—ABCM (Ret) Randy Weiss

I'd like to thank the previous officers and their spouses of the San Diego Chapter for the superb job they have done. They did an awesome job putting together this year's Symposium/Professional Working Group Conference with only a handful of chapter members providing assistance.

We just had a meeting in October with a record attendance of 74 personnel, so we are happy that we are able to reach out to our junior Sailors. Our meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at the VFW in Chula Vista on the corner of 3rd and I street, so if you are ever in the area at that time, please stop by. You're always welcomed!

Our prayers go out to those that suffered from the damages of the hurricanes in Florida and the East Coast. We continue to keep those that are deployed or doing work-ups in our prayers!

God bless each and everyone of you and may God bless America!

A fellow AB;

Doug Thornton

San Diego Chapter President

Northwest Chapter

Lots going on. The biggest of AB news is our very own AB LDO CDR Paul Erickson, taking command of the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training (CNATT) at NAS Whidbey Island on 07 October 2004. Special guest visitors included CDR (Ret) Bob Gillen.

Lots of catching up on sea stories and visits with former Air Officers (Lundeen and Ritchie) CVN70 and CVN72 AB's are busy getting ready for sea exercises and with the advent of the Navy's FRP are always busy coming or going.

The ships both look great. It's nice to see them in-port yet knowing that the crews are confident, dedicated and ready to serve and protect. The upcoming holiday period should provide the crews with some well earned leave, relaxation and family quality time.

Speaking of holiday times, the Northwest AB's are planning this years Christmas Party to be held in Port Orchard at the Puerto Villarta, on Dec 17th.

Winter is fast approaching and we are all making preparations for a hard winter. Between Mount Saint Helens getting ready to blow her top and early signs of snow levels dropping, we do the usual PM on property and cars. For those not watching the news, Mt. St. Helens has burped again. Many are expecting an eruption at any time and while most experts can agree on an eruption, they do not however agree on the severity. Infrared cameras have recently picked up hot molten just below the surface of the lava dome. This coupled with the South face of the MT. swelling and unusual gases have everyone expecting something pretty visual and exciting.

We want to express our deepest sympathy for the recent loss of shipmates and friends. Many were very close and they will be missed.

Good times are on the horizon as we make room for CVN74. The base is busy with lots of expansion projects and you would not recognize the waterfront rods passing by the Missouri and Charleston gates. Downtown Bremerton has a whole new look and image with the new city admin buildings, the waterfront convention center and Hampton Inn Suites. There are even making room for Condominiums. We even have a new Cold Stone Ice Cream Store now... Look out world, Bremerton is growing up...

So, while we celebrate the birthdays of aged, the newness of life we send our best wishes to our shipmates, families, and friends afar. We hope your holidays are full of joy good tiding s and family cheer.

Northwest Chapter



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2004 ABMA Living Legend, LT (Ret) C.J. Heard

THIS YEARS LIVING LEGEND AWARD RECIPIENT HAS A RECORD AND REPUTATION THAT FAR EXCEEDS THE CRITERIA NECESSARY FOR RECEIVING THIS AWARD. WITH OVER 23 YEARS OF PROFESSIONAL AND DEDICATED SERVICE TO OUR NAVY AND COUNTRY, HIS DUTIES HAVE COVERED THE FULL CIRCLE OF THE AVIATION BOATSWAIN'S MATE HANDLING RATE.

HE ENTERED THE NAVY IN 1961 AFTER COMPLETING BOOT CAMP, HE REPORTED ABOARD THE USS TICONDEROGA CVA-14, ASSIGNED TO V-1 DIV WHILE ABOARD, ADVANCED TO THE RATES OF ABH 3 & 2, DUTIES INCLUDED BLUE SHIRT AND CRASH SALVAGE LPO. ADVANCED TO ABH 1 AND PERFORMED DUTIES AS THE CRASH BOAT LPO WHILE ASSIGNED TO NAS CUBI POINT PHILLIPINES. FLIGHT DECK LPO ABOARD THE USS CORAL SEA CVA-43 AND ALSO THE USS MIDWAY CVA-41. WHILE ABOARD MIDWAY, HE WAS ADVANCED TO ABHC AND ASSUMED DUTIES AS FLT DK LCPO. HIS LEGEND "ALREADY IN PLACE", HE WAS SELECTED AND COMMISSIONED TO CWO-2 ABOARD MIDWAY IN 1977, SERVED AS THE AIR BOS'N ON THE USS RANGER. RETURNED BACK TO THE MIDWAY AS THE AIR BOS'N AND LDO SELECTED TO LTjg. IN 1982 HE WAS ORDERED TO COMNAVAIR-PAC AS THE OIC OF THE AIRCRAFT HANDLING TEAM AND PROMOTED TO LT. THIS ONE OF THE LEADING LDO BILLETS ON THE WEST COAST.

AFTER HIS RETIREMENT: IN 1984 HE BECAME VERY ACTIVE WITH THE AB COMMUNITY, HE SERVED AS A NATIONAL ABMA BOARD MEMBER AND IS A KEY MEMBER OF THE SAN DIEGO ABMA CHAPTER.

HE IS PRESENTLY EMPLOYED BY AMERICAN SAFETY TECHNOLOGIES, INC AND CAN STILL BE SEEN ON ALL CARRIERS CHECKING AND ENSURING THAT NON-SKID IS APPLIED PROPERLY. HE AND AMERICAN SAFETY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN OUR ABMA SYMPOSIUMS FOR MANY YEARS. HIS MOST RECENT INVOLVEMENT HAS BEEN EVIDENT IN THE LEADERSHIP AND SUPERVISION OF HUNDREDS OF MAN HOURS DEDICATED TO THE RESTORATION OF THE FLIGHT AND HANGAR DECK OF THE USS MIDWAY CVA 41, AS A SAN DIEGO MUSEUM. HIS GENEROSITY AND HARD WORK HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR AB COMMUNITY IN THE PAST, PRESENT AND TOWARDS THE FUTURE OF THE AVIATION BOATSWAINS MATE HISTORY RECOGNIZE OUR NEWEST LIVING LEGEND FOR 2004 -----

LT(RET)C.J. HEARD





AVIATION BOATSWAINS MATES ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2004



2004 Posthumous Living Legend Recipient ABHC (Ret/Dec) Donald Arthur "Tiny" Alexander

THIS YEAR'S POSTHUMOUS LIVING LEGEND RECIPIENT WAS A TOTALLY DEDICATED AVIATION BOATSWAINS MATE WITH OVER 26 YEARS OF PROFESSIONAL AND DEDICATED SERVICE TO OUR NAVY AND COUNTRY. HE ENTERED THE NAVY IN 1960 AND FOLLOWING BOOT CAMP, HE REPORTED TO NAVAL AUXILIARY AIR STATION, FALLON NEVADA. AFTER A SHORT TOUR AT FALLON, HE REPORTED ABOARD USS KITTY HAWK (CV-63) IN NOVEMBER 1961. ADVANCING TO ABH3 HE RECEIVED A COMMANDING OFFICERS LETTER OF COMMENDATION. FOLLOW ON ASSIGNMENTS INCLUDE A SHORT STAY AT NAVAL STATION SAN DIEGO AND ON TO USS KITTY HAWK (CV-63), WHERE HE ADVANCED TO ABH2 AND RECEIVED THE NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL. FROM THERE HE WENT TO USS CONSTELLATION (CV-64) AS FLY TWO AND THREE PETTY OFFICER AND WAS AWARDED THE NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL AND COMMANDER, SEVENTH FLEET FLAG LETTER COMMENDATION. NEXT TOUR WAS AT NAVAL AIR STATION MEMPHIS IN 1970 AND UPON DEPARTURE FROM MEMPHIS IT WAS BACK TO SEA, THIS TIME ON USS MIDWAY (CV-41) AS AN ABH2. UPON DEPARTURE FROM USS MIDWAY, HE DID A SHORT TEMPORARY TOUR ABOARD USS CLEVELAND (LPD-7) WHILE AWAITING TRANSFER TO USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11). AFTER NEW ORLEANS IT WAS ON TO USS RANGER (CV-61) AND PROMOTION TO ABH1 ON 16 AUGUST 1975. HE FINALLY MADE IT BACK ASHORE WITH A TOUR AT NAVAL AIR STATION NORTH ISLAND, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA. AFTER SHORE DUTY IT WAS BACK TO SEA ONCE AGAIN ON USS KITTY HAWK AND USS RANGER. WHILE ON KITTY HAWK, HE WAS COMMENDED FOR SAVING AN F-14 AIRCRAFT AND ITS CREW. FOLLOWING THIS TOUR, OUR RECIPIENT WENT TO NAVAL STATION SAN DIEGO AND ON TO SECURITY AT NAS MIRAMAR. AFTER MIRAMAR, SEA DUTY CALLED AGAIN AND IT WAS ON TO USS RANGER, AS FLIGHT DECK CHIEF. HE RECEIVED A SECOND NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL FOR HIS QUICK REACTION TO A BURNING S-3 AIRCRAFT, PUTTING THE FIRE OUT AND AVOIDING, POSSIBLE FIRE TO OTHER AIRCRAFT, THE SHIP AND POSSIBLE SUBSEQUENT LOSS OF LIFE. FOLLOWING A SUCCESSFUL TOUR IT WAS ON TO NAS MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI. AFTER NAS MERIDIAN, IT WAS BACK TO SEA AGAIN, THIS TIME TO USS CARL VINSON (CVN-70) IN ALAMEDA, CA. AFTER CARL VINSON HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO NAS ALAMEDA AND FINALLY RETIREMENT. SOME OF HIS FORMER SHIPMATES DESCRIBE HIM AS FOLLOWS THE MOST INTIMIDATING STRUCTURE ON THE FLIGHT DECK.....WHILE HIS STATURE IS ENORMOUS, IT WAS SMALL IN COMPARISON TO HIS HEART.....HE LIVED AND BREATHED THE AB COMMUNITY. IF YOU WERE AN AB AND IN TROUBLE, HE WAS THERE FOR YOU. IF YOU WERE AN AB WITH NO PLACE TO GO FOR THANKSGIVING OR CHRISTMAS, HIS HOUSE WAS OPEN FOR YOU. OF COURSE, HIS WIFE DID THE COOKING AND CLEANING AND HE, AS AN ABH, DIRECTED HER OPERATION. HE WAS AN EXPERT ON A FLIGHT DECK. HE GUIDED MANY OF YOU IN THE DIRECTION THAT LED TO YOU BECOMING LDO'S AND WARRANTS. HE GOT THE JOB DONE. SOME PEOPLE DIDN'T LIKE THE WAY HE DID HIS JOB, BUT DO IT HE DID. HIS HARD WORK HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR AB COMMUNITY IN THE PAST, PRESENT AND TOWARDS THE FUTURE OF THE AVIATION BOATSWAINS MATE HISTORY.

WE TAKE GREAT PLEASURE IN CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND RECOGNIZING OF ONE OF OUR VERY OWN, WHO DID HIS DUTY ABOVE AND BEYOND. HE WENT TO JOIN THE HEAVENLY FLIGHT DECK CREW WITH HIS FELLOW DEPARTED AB'S AND THE BIG AB IN THE SKY IN 2002.



TO ACCEPT THE AWARD WERE HIS MOST GRACIOUS WIFE, GINGER & DAUGHTERS, PARIS AND KHALENE.

WE RECOGNIZED OUR POSTHUMOUS LIVING LEGEND FOR 2004.

ABHC RETIRED DECEASED
DONALD ARTHUR "TINY" ALEXANDER





AVIATION BOATSWAINS MATES ASSOCIATION ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2004



ABMA Scholarship News

Greetings from the ABMA Scholarship Chairmen:

I'm proud to announce the 2004 recipient of the Isabelle M. Gillen Memorial ABMA Scholarship. This year's recipient is an English Major at the University of Virginia, who prevailed through a number of quality applicants. I take pleasure in announcing Melissa Z. Estrada as the 2004 scholarship recipient.

And, I truly want to thank our contributors to the scholarship fund:

ABCM Retired Bob High

Jacksonville Chapter

CWO Retired Arlie T. Sinks

LCDR Retired Richard F. Pitt

CW04 Retired Michael Brockman

ABCS Retired Jack & Mary Nix—in memory of CW04 Retired Robert J. Archibald III

American Safety Raffle

CDR Retired Robert F. Gillen

Marylou (Gibney) Korkuch & the Gibney family—in memory of CW04 Retired Robert J. Archibald III

With a matching grant from the Chubb Corp

Lakehurst Chapter

ABCM Retired Gary & Sheila Worley—in memory of Donna Haggerty

LCDR Retired Dave & Pat Deese—in memory of Donna Haggerty

CAPT Retired George & Roxanna Fenzl—in memory of Donna Haggerty

CDR Retired Jack & Bernice Carleton—in memory of Donna Haggerty

ABEC Retired R. J. Stoney Burke—in memory of Donna Haggerty

Jacksonville Chapter—in memory of Donna Haggerty

ABCS Retired Jack & Mary Nix—in memory of Donna Haggerty

Anonymous

Keep the applications and contributions coming so we can continue to serve the AB community. Remember the deadline for scholarship applications is June 30th. Applications are available on the web at www.abma-usn.org. Navigate to the "Scholarship" link to download the application and criteria.

Keep 'em pumped and turning,

Lanny A. Vines -ABCM Retired

ISABELLE M. GILLEN

Dear Aviation Boatswain's Mates Association:

I am writing to personally express my gratitude to each member of the Aviation Boatswain's Mates Association. Last year my sister, Gabriela, was the scholarship's proud recipient, and this year I am happy to share this honor. I am truly grateful for organizations such as yours that maintain the value of family and education. I look forward to graduation this coming spring with a Bachelor's degree in English Literature and plan on pursuing a career in advertising and public relations. Recently I completed a promising internship with the advertising firm, Hambright, Calcagno & Downing, here is the area. While there, I researched local events that may contribute to client sales. Some of the most important community events I tracked were Navy deployments, a reminder, like this scholarship, of how the Navy will continue to impact and influence my life. Once again, thank you, AB's, for allowing me to pursue my dreams.

Sincerely,

Melissa Estrada

University of Virginia '05



MEMORIAL ABMA SCHOLARSHIP

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS
are due annually by June 30th.**

**SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNTS ARE
\$2500**

**DOWNLOAD THE APPLICATION
FROM: <http://www.abma-usn.org>**



AVIATION BOATSWAINS MATES ASSOCIATION

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Tailhook Scholarship Information

Scholarship Eligibility: Applicant or his/her parent/guardian must meet one of the following requirements: Served in the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, or U.S. Coast Guard as a Naval Aviator, Naval Flight Officer, or Designated Naval Aircrewman, OR Served on board a U.S. Navy Aircraft carrier in any capacity as a member of ship's company, assigned air wing or onboard staff.

Scholarship applications are available from the Tailhook Educational Foundation each December. Application forms can be downloaded from the Foundation's website, or by mail from the Tailhook Educational Foundation by forwarding a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Scholarship applicants should submit completed application forms and associated documentation to arrive at the Foundation offices no later than 15 MARCH.

Send application to: The Tailhook Educational Foundation, P.O. Box 26626, San Diego, CA 92196-0626

1-800-269-8267 for further information

<http://Tailhook.org/Foundation.htm>

Additional Bits

The Aviation Boatswain's Mate Insignia

Our insignia, bearing crossed anchors with wings, has stood for gallantry, productivity and dedication for nearly fifty years. Many excellent AB's have given their limbs and in too many cases their lives, performing the feats of the flight deck. Allow me to break the insignia down and put it into the right perspective for you. The anchor is a heavy device used to secure a sea-going vessel or boat to a specific spot in a body of water. A single well-trained AB is an anchor. They secure their watch stations, whether it be securing aircraft on deck, fueling and de-fueling aircraft, directing aircraft around the deck, salvaging damaged aircraft, making aircraft settings on the arresting gear engine or hooking up and launching aircraft off our catapults. Our insignia has two anchors. This signifies that we can't do our jobs alone. We must rely on each other and combine our knowledge and talents to fulfill our role on every flight and

hanger deck. Just like a symphony orchestra in an amphitheater, we perform the marvelous spectacle of carrier air operations. We see each other at our worst and our best and we assist each other through the rough and dangerous times that are always present. We teach each other, we test each other and though it is never stated, we love and respect each other deeply. Like the identical crossed anchors, our souls are bonded in friendship forever. Then there are the wings. To put wings on a set of anchors in itself is superfluous. In retrospect, it would take very powerful wings and a strong back to support them in flight. AB's have the strong backs and the determination to get the job done no matter what the sacrifice. Unfortunately, those sacrifices are many and I would hope that they don't go unrewarded. Remember the old fable about whenever a bell chimes, an angel gets its wings? Well, whenever you hear ship's bell sound, more AB's have sacrificed their time and used their professionalism to earn their wings. Our wings should signify that we have earned and secured our place in heaven.

By: CW04 Douglas L. Chaney (AB Bos'n) (RET)

The Silent Ranks

I wear no uniforms, no blues or army greens. But I am in the military in the ranks rarely seen. I have no rank upon my shoulders. Salutes I do not give. But the military world is the place where I live. I'm not in the chain of command, orders I do not get. But my husband is the one who does, this I can not forget. I'm not the one who fires the weapon, who puts my life on the line. But my job is just as tough. I'm the one that's left behind. My husband is a patriot, a brave and prideful man and the call to serve his country not all can understand. Behind the lines I see the things needed to keep this country free. My husband makes the sacrifice, but so do our kids and me. I love the man I married. Soldiering is his life. But I stand among the silent ranks known as the Military Wife.

Author Unknown



AVIATION BOATSWAIN'S MATES ASSOCIATION ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2004



I am convinced, our Father, that your fondest feelings are reserved for the least pretentious and most genuine of us. I am sure that Aviation Boatswain's Mates are some of your favorites. Certainly Aviation Boatswain's Mates have yet to find the virtues of humility, or soft-spokenness or gentleness... they do lead with their jaws... and seem always ready to fight than to switch. They can be singled out by their red eyes, and by a grubbiness, which is a mark of their trade. But their wills match their strong backs... and their love of each other is a wondrous thing to behold. They are the salt of the deck... and their saltiness is honest and open... and they are uniquely your sons. We are grateful to them... as you love them specially, we mark them particularly tonight. Bless them every one... and forever keep them from harm and hurt. In Christ's name... Amen R.W. Bedingfield, Chaplain (USN)

Secured Flight Quarters

- LCDR Truman J. "TJ" McLaughlin
(ABMA Life Member and Retired)
- Lewis C. Engle
(ABHC Retired & ABMA Life Member)
- Alfred E. Reynolds
(ABHC Retired & ABMA Life Member)
- Mark E. Merkelis
(ABECS Retired & ABMA Life Member)
- John A. "Yogi" Baer
(ABHC Retired & ABMA Life Member)
- Donna Haggerty
(ABMA Life Member & Significant Other to ABMA Life Member
Robert F. Gillen)
- Sarah Moore
ABMA Life Member & Wife of ABMA Life Member Retired Clyde
Moore)
- Shirley Dunlavy
(Wife of Retired and ABMA Life Member Jim Dunlavy)
- ABHC Retired Pete Kinsey
- ABECS Royln Robinson, USN
- ABF1 Andre Maurice Dixon
- ABCS Basil L. Frawley
- ABCS Donovan H. Hartke
- ABCS William C. Mathews
- ABH1 Retired Charles (Chuck) Paul
- ABCM Retired Sid Threlkeld
- ABF2 Ivan (NMN) Cornejo



The Watch

For many years
The sailors have stood watch
While some of us were in our bunks at night
These sailors stood the watch
While some of us were in school learning our trade
These shipmates stood the watch
Yes...even before some of us were born into this world
These shipmates stood the watch
In those years when the storm clouds of war
were seen brewing on the horizon of history
These shipmates stood the watch
Many times they would cast an eye ashore and see their families
standing there
Needing their guidance and help
Needing that hand to hold during those hard times
But they still stood the watch
They stood the watch for many years
They stood the watch so that we, our families and
Our, fellow countrymen could sleep soundly in safety,
Each and every night, Knowing that these sailors stood the watch
Today we are here to say
"Shipmates...the watch stands relieved
Relieved by those You have Trained, Guided and Lead
Shipmates you stand relieved....

Our Beloved Friend "Donna Haggerty

Donna lost her battle with cancer last summer. She was the significant other of our Life Member and one of our founders, Bob Gillen. Donna was a wonderful person and a friend to all of us.

We will miss her terribly

Our community has lost one of our legendary spouse members. Sarah Moore passed away unexpectedly in December. She will be missed by all. She was known as the "Mother to AB's", and was heavily involved with the Pensacola Chapter and always helped the Jacksonville Chapter at our Jams. Sarah & Clyde took care of many AB's who needed them and for those of us who have known and loved her for years, we will miss her deeply. To know her was to Love her... She was a true friend and lover of AB's... Loving, Caring and Brash!

"God speed Sarah, you can now "Mother" all those AB's in the sky!



ABMA

Aviation Boatswains Mates Association

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www.abma-usn.org

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