

Verified 8/4/05
T. Santiago

(9)

AVIATION BOATSWAIN'S MATES ASSOCIATION (ABMA)
LIVING LEGEND NOMINATION
IN THE CASE OF
COMMANDER (AB LDO) RETIRED ROBERT EUGENE PARSONS

CAREER PATH

2005
2006 Winner

1-51 to 4-51	AR	RTC Great Lakes
4-51 to 11-54	AA, AN, AB3, AB2	USS Cabot (CVL-28)
9-55 to 3-56	AB2	NATTU, Philadelphia
3-56 to 11-57	AB1	USS Saratoga (CVA-60)
11-57 to 5-59	AB1	Naval Air Facility, Naples, Italy
8-59 to 4-60	AB1	USS Forrestal (CVA-59)
4-60 to 8-60	AB1	Naval Training Center, Bainbridge, MD
9-60 to 9-63	ABE1	Naval Recruiting Branch Station, Beloit, WI
9-63 to 12-64	ABE1	USS Independence (CVA-62)
12-64 to 3-66	ABEC	USS America (CVA-66)
3-66 to 6-66	WO1	Naval Aviation Schools Command, Pensacola
6-66 to 6-69	WO1	Naval Air Engineering Center, Philadelphia
6-69 to 8-69	CWO2	Naval Air Technical Training Center, Lakehurst
8-69 to 11-71	CWO2	USS Lexington (CVT-16)
11-71 to 1-74	CWO3	Naval Air Station, Saufley Field, Pensacola
1-74 to 3-74	LTJG	Naval Air Technical Training Center, Lakehurst
3-74 to 4-76	LT	USS Coral Sea (CV-43)
4-76 to 1-77	LT	Naval Air Station, Meridian, MS
1-77 to 8-79	LT	COMNAVAIRLANT, Norfolk
8-79 to 1-83	LCDR	Naval Air Station, Pensacola
1-83 to 5-85	LCDR	USS Independence (CV-62)
5-85 to 5-90	CDR	COMNAVAIRSYSCOM, Washington, DC
5-90 to 2-91	CDR	Naval Air Station, Pensacola
2-91 to 5-91	CDR	USNS Mercy (T-AH19) (Desert Storm)
5-91 to 5-93	CDR	Naval Air Station, Pensacola

MILITARY AWARDS

- Meritorious Service Medal with 1 Gold Star
- Navy Commendation Medal with 1 Gold Star
- Navy Achievement Medal
- Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon
- Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon with 1 Bronze Star
- Navy "E" Ribbon
- Navy Good Conduct Medal with 3 Bronze Stars
- Navy Expeditionary Medal
- Navy Occupation Service Medal with Europe Clasp
- National Defense Service Medal with 2 Bronze Stars

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with 3 Bronze Stars
Southwest Asia Service Medal with 1 Bronze Star
Humanitarian Service Medal
Sea Service Deployment Ribbon with 3 Bronze Stars
Kuwait Liberation Medal (SAUDI)
Kuwait Liberation Medal (KUWAIT)
Navy Expert Pistol Medal

CIVILIAN AWARD

Presidents Medal, National Safety Council of the United States (Life Saving Medal for performing Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) on a 4 year old boy))

ORGANIZATIONS

Fleet Reserve Association (FRA)
American Legion
The Retired Officers Association (TROA)
American Veterans (AMVETS)

ABMA AFFILIATION

Aviation Boatswain's Mates Association (ABMA) Life Member and Plank-Owner
ABMA President..... TWO TERMS

OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- *Recruit Training Command's Precision Drill Team
- *USS Cabot, aircraft fueling, rigging hoses for underway replenishment and in-flight blimp refueling
- *USS Saratoga, arresting gear crew, took charge of Mirror Landing System which was mounted on a forklift, elevated to "Socket Pourer in Charge" because of numerous socket failures
- *Recruiter in Charge, Naval Recruiting Station, Beloit, Wisconsin, saved a 4-year old boy's life performing what today is known as "CPR". (Awarded President's Medal).
- *Naval Air Engineering Center, Philadelphia, caused a change to be incorporated to the Catapult Retraction Engine going to cable clamps instead of poured sockets and caused the investigation and engineering design change to cut off arresting gear cable sockets and pouring new sockets, thereby extending purchase cable life. TAD to CV-67 as Catapult Certification Officer, which involved lots of changes with the new Rotary Retract Engine.
- *USS Lexington, Aviation Fuels Officer, due to an aircraft launch mishap was moved to Aircraft Launching Officer. Served as Aircraft Handling Officer.
- *NAS Saufley Field Crash and Salvage Officer, tested new type Fire Truck (TAU)
- *USS Coral Sea as Cat and A/G Maintenance Officer

*COMNAVAIRLANT, PMS inspector/AVFUELS Officer. He and crew re-wrote PMS Manual. Assigned to Catapult Desk and Ships Coordinator for Lexington. Wrote specification for Non-Skid.

*USS Independence, V-2 Division Officer, turned crew and equipment into the "Best in the Atlantic Fleet". The crew loved him, he loved the crew.....his goal was "Bring Them Back Alive".....all that deployed, returned. "Mission Accomplished"

*COMNAVAIRSYSCOM, did away with Bridle Arresters.....ALREMP was born and implemented on all carriers in 5 years.....Helicopter Landing Systems (HLS) repairs implemented at SIMA, San Diego, Shock Tested CVN-71, Fat Cat Deployed, New specifications for pouring arresting gear sockets.....

*ABMA President for two tours....got CNO to endorse airplanes for symposiums while Tail Hook was putting a stop to travel...MOBIL grease for Arresting Gear Lubrication...appropriated money and got Dave Deese to write Material Ordering Guides (MOG)

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Commander Robert Eugene Parsons is an "AB'S AB"!!!!!! He has "been there and done that". He has worked in all facets, ABE, ABF and ABH. Our Association's PRESIDENT for two terms.....actively involved in every Chapter that was in every location that he was stationed. His duty as President has helped shape our organization. I personally worked for him on the Crash Crew, as an ABE, at Naval Air Station, Saufley Field.

My career would have "ENDED" at Saufley Field, were it not for the guidance and leadership exhibited by this AB. I saw in him, the future of what I wanted in my life and subsequent career. I was overweight; the Medical Officer would not approve my request for reenlistment. Then this AB LDO took my case to the Base Commander and presented his case. The Captain approved a waiver; I reenlisted and requested transfer to USS Coral Sea, with then LTJG Parsons. The rest is history.

Commander Parsons is a LEGEND and his exploits are LEGENDARY!!!!!!!

From ABE/ABF/ABH to Staff and Engineering tours, Air Operations/Air Boss on one of the Navy's two hospital ships to President of this Great Association. His record speaks for him. I am particularly honored for having met this AB for his actions and guidance formed me into who I am today.....I would not be in this position in life without him! I am an integral part of his family, I call him DAD, and he calls me SON. Others over the years have had the same accolades afforded them. I cherish all of mine immensely.

A couple of signs over his door or on his desk over the years basically say it all.....

EITHER LEAD, FOLLOW, OR GET THE HELL OUT OF THE WAY

FORGET CHOW, GIVE ME FIRST READY

I WILL TELL YOU WHEN YOU ARE TIRED
I WILL TELL YOU WHEN YOU ARE HUNGRY
I WILL TELL YOU WHEN YOU ARE SLEEPY

FOLLOW ME AND YOU WILL NEVER SLEEP