

From: Preston L. Jones, AB CDR (RET)

To: President, Aviation Boatswains Mates Association

Subj: ABMA LIVING LEGEND POSTHUMOUS AWARD NOMINATION, SUBMISSION OF

Name: LCDR THOMAS J. PETERS, USN (RET)

Service: 23 years 9 months 23 days

Retired: 02/29/1972

#### BIOGRAPHY OF SERVICE

1. Enlisted active military service 18 May 1948 follow-on recruit training at NTC, Great Lakes ILL.
2. From 1948 to through 1949, His first assignment was USS PALAU (CVE122), Operating from GUANTANAMO BAY CUBA. As an Airman Apprentice he was assigned as a Gasoline Crew Member (or as we know them Purple Shirts or Grapes). Following advancement to Airman he became Gasoline Pump Room Operator.
3. 1949 to 1952 he served aboard USS LAYTE (CV32) Operating from SASABO JAPAN in support of KOREAN Combat operations. As an Airman he was again assigned to the Gasoline Crew. Following advancement to AB3 he became the Pump Room Petty Officer and with advancement to AB2(T) he became the Below Decks and Gasoline Repair VII Petty Officer. He accomplished the foregoing within two years, a most impressive feat.
4. 1952 he reported to instructor Training school at NATTC, Norman Oklahoma with additional training at Naval Air Technical Training Center, Memphis, Tennessee before returning to Norman Oklahoma for Instructor duties. He was Advanced to AB1(T), MAY 1953 and ABI in October 1953.
5. 1956 He entered Gas/In-Gas Class "C" School and follow-on Cat & A/G Class "C" school at Naval Technical training Unit, NAVMATCEN, Philadelphia PA. He then reported to Naval Air Station PAX River Maryland. Assigned to the Airfield Facilities Unit and was Advanced from AB1 To ABC(T) in September 1956. Advanced from ABC(T) to ABC in September 1959
6. 1960 June. Appointed to LDO Ensign (T). Reported to USS Forrestal CVA-59 as Air BOSN/Crash & Salvage Officer, conducting Flight Operations in both East and West Coast Operational Arena's. He accepted Permanent Appointment to Officer Grade in September 1962 and was Promoted to Lieutenant Junior Grade (LTJG).
7. 1963 Reported to Naval Air Engineering Center Lakehurst NJ. Assigned to Catapult and Arresting , Development and Installation Site. Additionally he Supervised Field Arresting Gear installations at many of our Naval Air Stations.
7. 1965 Reported to USS Independence (CVA-62) as Assistant Flight Deck Officer Conducting Combat Flight Operations in support of the Republic of South Vietnam Forces. Promoted to Lieutenant (LT)
8. 1968 Reported to USS Shangri-la (CVA38) Assigned as Aviation Fuels Officer. Promoted to Lieutenant Commander February 1969. During this tour he received the Navy Achievement Medal for exceptional Supervision and continual FLAWLESS execution of every facet of Aircraft Aviation Refueling during Vietnam Combat Operations.
9. 1970 Reported to Naval Air Engineering Center Lakehurst NJ, as Catapult/Arresting Gear Test Site Officer and Ground Support Equipment Officer. Re-assigned to a forward deployed unit at NAS Guam as OIC Ground Support Equipment/Parachute Loft , providing Aviation Ground Support and survival

Equipment to Naval and Marine Corp units at CHULAI and DANANG Vietnam, BANGKOK Thailand and TOWNSVILLE Australia.

10. Retired 29 February 1972.

#### MILITARY DECORATIONS

During his Naval Career he was awarded the following:

NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION (W/1 STAR)  
COMBAT ACTION RIBBON  
PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION  
GOOD CONDUCT RIBBON (W/2 STARS)  
NAVY OCCUPATION MEDAL (W/EUROPEAN & ASIAN CLASPS)  
KOREAN CAMPAIGN MEDAL (W/2 STARS)  
UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL (W/1 STAR)  
NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL (W/1 STAR)  
NAVY EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL (CUBA)  
ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL (CUBA)  
VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL(W/4 STARS)  
VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL  
CAMDEN COUNTY MILITARY SERVICE MEDAL  
CAMDEN COUNTY KOREAN WAR SERVICE MEDAL

#### SELECTION CRITERIA

Why should this nominee be selected as a ABMA LIVING LEGEND POSTHUMOUS AWARDEE

LCDR (RET) Thomas J (Tom) Peters, military record was an enviable one that remains worthy of emulation. His record clearly speaks for itself, his accomplishment as an AB Enlisted E-1 through E-7 and LDO Ensign to LCDR Demonstrated his dedication to the US Navy, and Country. What the military record does not sufficiently impart was his love of his fellow AB's.

Tom, has always had and continued to have (until his passing) a genuine interest and caring for the Navy and our Young Sailors, the Petty Officers, Chiefs, Warrants and LDO's who make up the AB community. As he advanced up the ladder of achievement through the enlisted ratings into the Officer ranks he never forgot his beginnings while on active duty and during the years following his retirement.

He was a Life Member (L-116) of the ABMA

He participated in ABMA Reunions, Conventions and Symposiums including Workshops throughout the years following the Association inception including the ABMA Jams held twice a year.

He Served with distinction throughout his career, He supported the ABMA. HE WAS AN AVIATION BOATSWAIN'S MATE, ONE OF US. I urge the selection board to recognize one of our own who could not be recognized in life due to his quick and untimely passing. An award which family members will cherish through life if selected.

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PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION  
GOOD CONDUCT RIBBON (W/2 STARS)  
NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL  
NAVY OCCUPATION MEDAL (W/EUROPEAN & ASIAN CLASPS)  
KOREAN CAMPAIGN MEDAL (W/2 STARS)  
UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL (W/1 STAR)  
NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL (W/1 STAR)  
NAVY EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL (CUBA)  
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