

From: Enlisted Programs Officer, Navy Recruiting District, Denver  
To: President, Aviation Boatswain's Mates Association (ABMA)

1994

Subj: NOMINATION FOR ABMA "LIVING LEGEND" AWARD ICO  
COMMANDER ROBERT F. GILLEN, USN (RETIRED)

1. Having reviewed the requirements for subject award, CDR Gillen (Retired) is considered eligible in all respects and is hereby nominated by the following:

"This man was the driving force in creating this unique organization of brotherhood which we all enjoy today. Rising from Seaman Recruit and excelling in a career which spanned three decades of active service, his dedication to the Aviation Boatswain's Mates community is monumental.

His record of active service classifies him as a true pioneer. Having survived the days of wooden decks, gunpowder catapults and straight deck carriers, he was a key figure, through innovative thinking, in the evolution of carrier aviation.

Truly the Father of the Aviation Boatswain's Mates Association, he inspired it's conception, promoted it's relativity and insured it's survival. He served as the ABMA's first president, taking a fledgling, unsponsored organization from anonymity to an acknowledged lobbying force never before known within the naval service. His leadership, foresight and genuine love for those who wear the anchors and wings has guaranteed a place in history for the Aviation Boatswain's Mates Association and is deserving of the title "Living Legend".

Respectfully,



R. M. HENDERSON  
CWO4 USN

CHARLIE;

NOT HAVING A LOT OF PARTICULARS,  
I SUBMIT WHAT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE.  
BOB, ABOVE ALL OTHERS, IS THE FATHER  
OF THE ABMA AND HAS BEEN A GUIDING  
LIGHT FOR ME AND COUNTLESS OTHERS.

I REQUEST THE BOARD'S MOST SERIOUS CONSIDERATION  
OF THIS TRULY LEGENDARY PERSON.

BEST REGARDS

Bob

ROBERT F. GILLEN

2/48 TO 12/48	BOOT CAMP AIRMAN SCHOOL AND CLASS "A" AB SCHOOL (AR-ABAA)	RECRUIT/STUDENT
1/49 TO 6/50	NAS ALAMEDA (ABAA-AB-3)	BOATS & DOCKS/SEAPLANE BEACHING CREW
8/52 TO 12/52	NATTU PHILA PA AB-3	CLAWS "C" AVIATION BOATSWAIN MATE SCHOOL
7/50 TO 6/54	USS BAIROKO CVE-115 (AB-3 -AB-1)	CATAPULTS & ARRESTING GEAR CATAPULT CAPTAIN, DIVISION LPO
7/54 TO 7/57	NATTU PHILA PA (AB-1-ABC)	INSTRUCTOR CLASS "C" AVIATION BOATSWAIN SCHOOL
8/57 TO 12/59	USS RANGER CV-61 ABC	V-2 DIV LEADING CPO CAT & AG CPO
1/60 TO 6/60	NEWPORT R.I. NATTU PHILA PA	LDO SCHOOL & ADVANCED MAINT. OFFICER TRAINING
5/60 TO 6/62	USS HANCOCK CV-19 (ENS - LTJG)	CAT & AG MAINT. OFFICER (ARRESTING GEAR OFFICER)
7/62 TO 7/65	NAEL(SI) NAEC PHILA PA (LTJG - LT)	LAUNCH & RECOVERY SYSTEMS TEST & DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
8/65 TO 7/67	USS KITTY HAWK CV-63 (LT)	CAT & AG MAINT. OFFICER
8/67 TO 7/70	STAFF COMFAIRWESTPAC (LT-LCDR)	SHIPS INSTALLATION OFFICER
8/70 TO 1/73	USS CORAL SEA CV-43 (LCDR)	V-2 DIV OFFICER/CAT & AG OFFICER
2/73 TO 5/73	CNAP STAFF DET ALAMEDA, CA (LCDR)	CAFSU/VRT/CNAP LIASON-ALAMEDA
6/73 TO 7/76	STAFF CNAP (LCDR-CDR)	CAT & AG OFFICER SHIPS INSTALLATION OFFICER