

*Awarded
at 1998
Gay Symposium*

5 April 1998

From: Preston L Jones, ABCDR (ret)
to: President, Aviation Boatswains mates Association
subj: ABMA LIVING LEGEND AWARD NOMINATION; SUBMISSION OF
Name: CWO4 ROBERT J. ARCHIBALD III, USN (RET);
Service: 27 yrs 11 months 23 days
Retired: 12/31/1978

BIOGRAPHY OF SERVICE

- @ He enlisted on 09 Jan 1951 and underwent recruit training at NTC Newport RI.
- @ From March 1951 to October 1953, His first command was USS Coral Sea (CVA-43). As an Airman Apprentice he was assigned as a Gasoline Crew Member (or as we know them purple shirts or grapes). Following advancement to AB3 He became the Gasoline Pump Room Petty Officer. With advancement to AB2, he became the Below decks and Gasoline Repair Vii (seven) Petty Officer. All within two years, Not bad.
- @ From November 1953 to March 1956, he was stationed at the Naval Air Facility Naval Air Maintenance Center Mustin Field, Philadelphia. Assigned as the Catapult Test Site, Catapult Captain and Test team member. Upon selection to AB1 he also became a member of the Aircraft Carrier catapults and Arresting Gear Shipboard certification team.

By now his reputation as a CAN-DO Sailor was well known. When problems arose with the Gasoline and Aviation Fuels systems onboard USS Lake Champlain (CVA-36), He was detached and assigned to USS Lake Champlain in the capacity as the Flight Deck Gasoline King.

Six (6) months later in October 1956, with the USS Lake Champlain's Fuels systems in excellent condition and having received accolades from her Commanding Officer, he Cross-Deck transferred to USS Ranger (CVA-61).
- @ For the remainder of 1956 thru 1959, he remained onboard USS Ranger (CVA-61), In a dual role capacity as the Catapult Captain (FWD) and as the Flight Deck Gasoline King. He transferred in late 1959 to RTC/NTC Great lakes to become an Aircraft and Shipboard Firefighting Instructor. While at NTC Great Lakes he was advanced to ABC Chief Petty Officer.

- @ Transferred in September 1963, he reported onboard USS Oriskany (CVA-34), conducting Combat Aircraft Launch and Recovery Operations in South East Asia. He served during 1963 to 1964 as the Arresting Gear Chief and with selection to ABCS, Senior Chief Petty Officer, he became the V-2 Division Catapults Chief.

His previous overall outstanding record and his exceptional performance onboard USS Oriskany led to his selection to the Rank of Warrant Officer W-1 (temporary) USN on 1 December 1965. He transferred from USS Oriskany (CVA-34), in January 1965, to attend the Warrant and LDO Knife and Fork school in Pensacola Florida.

- @ From 1965 to 1968, his command was the Naval Air Training Facility SHIPINSTAL Team Lakehurst NJ, where he became the Catapult and Arresting Gear Test Site Officer. On 1 December 1966, He was Commissioned to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer CWO-2 USN.

- @ From 1968 thru 1970, he was attached to Commander Fleet Air Western Pacific (COMFAIRWESTPAC) Subic Bay Phillipines. Assigned as the Aircraft Carrier Catapults and Arresting Gears Fleet Support Officer for the western pacific.

He was responsible for the Operational Readiness Support of all Catapults and Arresting gear Systems in all Aircraft Carriers conducting Combat Aircraft Launch and Recovery Strike Operations in Vietnam.

When problems arose his professional expertise and ability to repair these equipments were cause for his temporary assignment onboard to provided both technical and hands on assistance to the crews of USS Ticondaroga (CVA-14), USS Hancock (CVA-19), USS Bon-Homme Richard (CVA-31), USS Kearsarge (CVA-33), USS Oriskany (CVA-34), USS Shangrila (CVA-38), USS Coral Sea (CVA-43) and USS Ranger (CVA-61).

Through his professional assist to those onboard. His superlative understanding of the Logistic Acquisition process and his direct efforts to ensure immediate Supply Support. The fore mentioned Aircraft carriers enjoyed an excellent operational readiness record while carrying-out combat operations. He was also selected during this tour to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer CWO-3.

@ From June 1970 to July 1972 was attached to NAS Lakehurst NJ, Ships Installations Department, as the Fleet Support Officer. Directly responsible to The Naval Air Systems Command Washington DC, in support of both COMNAVAIRPAC and COMNAVAIRLANT to ensure operational readiness of all East and West Coast catapults, Arresting gear and the Visual landing Aids Systems programs.

Also during this tour he became thoroughly involved with the planning and Construction programs, for the Installations of Aircraft Launch and Recovery Equipment onboard the Navy's first Nimitz Class nuclear powered Aircraft Carrier.

@ From January 1973 to January 1976, Because of his involvement with and exceptional knowledge of the new Nimitz class programs he was transferred to the Nimitz Pre-Commissioning Unit as her first Catapults, Arresting Gears and VLA Maintenance Officer.

On 1 December 1974, he was selected to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer CWO-4 USN.

@ From January 1976 to December 1978, he was attached to Naval Air Technical Training Center (NATTC) Lakehurst NJ. Assigned as the Training Officer for all ABE rating "A" and "C" schools and the Catapult Officer technical training course. This was to be his last Active Duty Assignment due to being diagnosed with cancer. following surgery, radiation and chemotherapy treatment and having completed 27 years, 11 months and 23 days of active duty he was placed in retirement on 31 December 1978.

MILITARY DECORATIONS

@ During his Naval Career he was awarded the following:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL
GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL (3 AWARDS)
NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION
AIRFORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL
MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION
VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL (4 AWARDS)
VIETNAM, CAMPAIGN RIBBON
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION
SHARPSHOOTER MEDAL

SELECTION CRITERIA

Why should this nominee be selected as the 1998 ABMA Living Legend?

Chief Warrant Officer CWO4 Robert J (Archie) Archibalds military record was an enviable one that was and remains one worthy of emulation. A record which clearly speaks for itself. What the military record does not sufficiently impart was and still is what has made him a true legend in the AB community.

Archie, has always had and continues to have a genuine interest and caring for our Young Sailors, the Petty Officers, Chiefs, Warrants and LDO's who lead them to become our future AB's. This interest and caring was a key factor which drove him along with others (most of whom are already AB Living Legends), to do something which would perpetuate the comraderie, professionalism and safety of flight within the AB's operating environment.

With these goals in mind the birth of the ABMA had begun. He was a part of the original group who started the ball rolling at meetings and get-to-gathers. This led to the first reunion held in 1971 and was followed by three additional reunions in 1972, 1973 and 1974, prior to the ABMA's official incorporation.

His involvement in the ABMA since the beginning has been a consistent driving force. He helped to bring the association through the early and lean years to its present status as a highly recognized professional organization who's Workshops, Scholarships and individual assistance programs have to one degree or another benefitted all within the AB Community. Some of the specific areas attributed to his direct involvement are:

- @ Played a key role in getting the Association Chartered through the state of New Jersey as Non-Profit Organization.
- @ President of the ABMA during 1976-1977.
- @ Involved with the establishment of the First ABMA Chapter (known as the Mother Chapter) located in Lakehurst NJ.
- @ Served on the Board of Directors.

- @ Advocated and participated in the successful high level discussions during 1977, to persuade the Navy training Command of the necessity for increasing the ABE "A" School from 4 weeks to 6 weeks to enable increased PMS and Hands-On training.
- @ Chairman of the 1978, Convention in Philadelphia PA.
- @ Assisted in the establishment of the Official "AB Hall of Honors" at the NATTC AB School in Lakehurst NJ.
- @ Chairman of the 1984, Symposium in Philadelphia PA.
- @ Has participated in of the ABMA Reunions, Conventions and Symposiums except when deployed.

Why should Chief Warrant Officer CWO-4 Archibald, be your selection as the 1998 ABMA "Living Legend" ?.

Archie, is a true ABMA "Living Legend", one who we should not forget, one who we must show our gratitude to while he is still alive. We must recognize those who not only proved to be outstanding AB's militarily and belong to the ABMA, but those who took or take the next steps to establish and participate in different endeavors to improve the community they love.

We have many members who were or are outstanding military individuals. By their voices they always know what we as an organization should or need to do, but, as consistent participants in the ABMA endeavor where are they?.

Archie's quite personnel pride at being at involved and as a driving force in perpetuating the ABMA and AB community has always been payment enough.

I urge the selection board to recognize one of our members who has been and remains the heart of the ABMA. To not recognize Archie, would be an injustice to someone who has given so very very much.