

2003 Winner

ELIGIBILITY VERIFIED
Marie

May 26, 2001

From: Keith H. Burt, ABHCS, (RET)
To: President, Aviation Boatswain's Mates Association

Subj: ABMA LIVING LEGEND AWARD NOMINATION; SUBMISSION OF

Name: LCDR MARK SWAIN SHORT, USN (RET)

Service: 27 years

Retired: 1977

BIOGRAPHY OF SERVICE

- 1950 February, joined United States Navy, Age 18
Basic Training: San Diego, California
Fire Fighting School Memphis & Philadelphia
Airman Fundamental School - Memphis
- 1950 December, Boxer CV-21
Catapult & Arresting Gear
Airman Apprentice
Made 5 cruises to Korea
Made Airman
- 1951 Made Airman 2nd Class
1952 Made Airman 1st Class
- 1953 Catapult & Arresting Test Site
Patuxent River, Maryland
- 1957 Made E-7 Chief at Pax River
USS Midway (CVA-41)
Catapult & Arresting Gear
- 1960 USS Shangri La (CVA-38)
Hanger Deck Chief
Made E-8 Chief
- 1963 VR-1 Patuxent River, Maryland
Line Chief
Made E-9 Chief
Taught Weight & Balance
Air Crewman on C13 & C131
Nuclear Weapons Handling Crew
- 1964 USS Ranger (CVA-61)
One cruise to Viet Nam

- 1965 Officers Training Schools Command Pensacola, Florida
Made Ensign
- 1966 USS Enterprise (CVAN-65)
Crash & Salvage Officer
Two cruises to Viet Nam
- 1967 Cherry Point, Marine Base, North Carolina
Water Salvage Officer
Made LTJG
- 1968 Shangri La (CVA-38)
Catapult & Arresting Gear Maintenance Officer
Made Lieutenant
Med cruise
Viet Nam cruise
- 1971 Schools Command, Pensacola, Florida
- 1972 USS Lexington, (CVT-16) Training Carrier
Flight Deck Officer
Made Lieutenant Commander
- 1976 Sherman Field, Pensacola, Florida
Crash & Salvage and Runway Support
- 1977 RETIRED

MILITARY DECORATIONS

During LCDR Short's Naval Career he was awarded the following:

- NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL, 1 Star
- NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL, 2 Stars
- NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION
- MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION
- GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL, 4 Stars
- KOREAN PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION
- CHINA SERVICE MEDAL
- NAVY EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL
- ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL
- KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL, 8 Stars
- UNITED NATIONS MEDAL
- VIET NAM SERVICE MEDAL
- VIET NAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL, 8 Stars
- VIET NAM ARMED FORCES MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION (GALLANTRY CROSS)

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

LCDR Mark Swain Short's military record was an enviable one that was and remains worthy of emulation. His record clearly speaks for itself and the Aviation Boatswain's Mates community. I was only a part in LCDR Short's outstanding service. He left an impression on me back in 1976, with his genuine interest and caring for the Navy and his men. Throughout his career, LCDR Short earned a solid reputation for professional excellence and personal integrity. The long list of sailors upon whose lives he had a positive effect would read like a who's who of the AB community. He is one of the Officer's that I wanted to emulate, and finally a major reason I went LDO myself.

It's really hard to get information on Our True Legends, where so much was told to wives and family, but yet so much is locked up in trunks or boxes in attics or garages. This information come from a grandson telling his grandfather he is doing a history paper at school, what a time this must have been for LCDR Short, sharing a part of not only his history but also the history of Aviation Boatswain's Mates working at sea and on shore.

Telling his grandson about as a young man of 18, joining the Navy, his Basic Training in San Diego, CA. his first aircraft carrier the USS Boxer CV-21 working in catapults and arresting gear, making cruises to Korea, then shore duty at Catapult & Arresting Gear Test Site, Patuxent River Maryland, then back to the USS Midway CVA-41 as a Chief Petty Officer working again in Catapults & Arresting Gear. Then in the 60's working as the Hanger Deck Chief on the USS Shangri La CVA-38. The USS Ranger CVA-61 was next with a cruise to Viet Nam. Upon making Ensign, he was assigned to the USS Enterprise CVAN-65 as the Crash & Salvage Officer, with cruises to Viet Nam. His grandson listening about LCDR Short tour at Cherry Point, Marine Base in North Carolina as the Water Salvage Officer, going to the USS Shangri La CVA-38 as the Catapult & Arresting Gear Maintenance Officer, making Med and Viet Nam cruises. The tour at the Schools Command and being the Flight Deck Officer on the USS Lexington CVT-16, at Pensacola, FL and finally his last tour of duty at Sherman Field as the Crash & Salvage and Runway Support Officer.

It was only asked of Mrs. Short and others to get what information they could, so as not to let LCDR Short know about him being a nominee for this award, But what an award LCDR Short has gotten already with the bonding with his grandson. Can't you imagine that grandson just sitting and getting all this history from his grandfather, who help make this Country, our Navy and the Aviation Boatswain's Mates what it is today.

LCDR Mark Short is a true ABMA "LIVING LEGEND" one that we should never forget, and I bet his grandson will always remember. Looking over his career, and the careers of our already selected Living and Posthumous Legends, them taking numerous "greenie's" still wet behind the ears and turning them into professional, dedicated sailors and Aviation Boatswain's Mates. Our personal heroes, which have made our way as sailors and Aviation Boatswain's Mates much easier.

IT'S WITH GREAT HONOR AND RESPECT THAT I NOMINATE, AVIATION BOATSWAIN'S MATE, LIEUTENANT COMMANDER, MARK SWAIN SHORT, UNITED STATES NAVY RETIRED AS THE NEXT ABMA "LIVING LEGEND".

2003 ABMA "LIVING LEGEND"