

To: ABMA President Mike Weeks (CDR)  
 from: Elizabeth E. Sunderland (wife) 41 yrs. (6)

Subj: Living Legend Award

Dear Cdr Weeks,

I would like to take this opportunity to nominate my husband William R. Sunderland ABHC (Ret) USN for consideration of this award. He completed 21 years of service, was separated to the fleet Reserve 30 Sept. 75 and honorably retired on 1 Jul 84.

Chief Sunderland joined up in 1955, served in VF-51 USS Bonhomme Richard (CVA-31), Annapolis NA, north severn seaplaner, Iceland, USS Saratoga (CVA-60), Fleet Tra. Center Mayport, USS F.D. Roosevelt (CVA-42) and retired at Lakehurst N.J. as Air Dept Officer and doc. senior Instructor.

His lasting impact on the AB community as well as the US Navy was that he set the standard for the safe and expeditionary movement of Aircraft, and, at two training commands was taught to hundreds of ABHC he was unofficially known as "Dick-Head" and a master handler.

He and Lakehurst Engineer GS-11 John Rocotto brought the TAU-3 twin fire fighting unit into reality in 1975 after years of testing and re-design by fleet response. I understand the TAU is still operating.

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cont:

Chief Sunderland also contributed unusually to the OO-80R14 Crash & Salv. manual by writing agenda items and attending symposiums. He even did it after he retired and worked for the NAEC Lakehurst Fire Dept; where he became an asst. chief GS-9. Sir I am amazed by what this man did as an AB and by his vast knowledge. He has handled or worked with aircraft from F4U's to FA18's and a lot in between and some foreign ones. I remember when he went aboard the Saratoga in 1963 as 2<sup>nd</sup> class, he relieved the only experienced handler who was making CPO in Fly-3. The deck was in total disarray and the cats were also having trouble. He lost 30 lbs in 6 weeks worked F. gtr to F. gtr. 4-months later they got the air dept E, a lot because of my husband. His men loved him too.

Thank you.

B.E. Sunderland  
144 Shingle Point Rd.  
Georgetown DE 19947

Ph. 302-684-1713  
ABMA Life Member # 253

P.S. Contact me if you need more info. he doesn't

NAVAL AVIATION SYSTEMS



# PMA 251

COMNAVAIRSYSCOMHQ  
 47123 Buse Road, Unit #IPT  
 Patuxent River, MD 20670-1547

## FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

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Bldg: _____	Bldg: _____
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Fax: <u>850-432-7572</u>	Fax: <u>301-757-6800</u>
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REMARKS: