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DON Civilians Recognized For Public Service In Washington State

The Seattle Federal Executive Board (FEB) presented 35 civilian employees from the Department of the Navy (DON) with Public Service awards during a ceremony May 6, 2014, in Seattle, Washington. Among them was Michele Roberts, the director of recruitment tools and processes for the DON Office of Civilian Human Resources.

The Seattle FEB, one of 28 FEBs nationwide, cited Roberts' extensive public service and, notably, her significant impact on the local community. In presenting the award to Roberts at a ceremony during the National Public Service Week, FEB pointed to her volunteer work with Work Source Kitsap County of the Washington States Job Center of America in Bremerton and the Bremerton Rotary Club.

Roberts collaborated with Work Source to provide information and advice on federal human resources, applying for federal jobs, identifying unemployed candidate skills and offered free resume and cover letter critiques at the local career fair. Roberts also shared her experience through speaking events for high school students participating in the Bremerton Rotary Club mentorship support program. Students participating in the program, typically ninth-graders, are working to be the first of their families to attend college.

In her volunteer activities, Roberts not only drew on her decades of experience as a civilian employee with the Department of the Navy, but she also tapped into her work and leadership with the local Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM) chapter and the West Sound Human Resource Management Association.

Other civilian employees recognized by the FEB at the ceremony included:

Navy Region Northwest

Todd Boelke — Boelke directly contributed to the successful execution of more than 300 sorties and 800 mishap-free flight hours for 18 search, rescue and medical evacuation missions, resulting in 10 lives saved.



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He performed maintenance on more than \$1.2 million in squadron assets that enabled the Naval Air Station Whidbey Island Search and Rescue Squadron to successfully complete its mission.

Elijah Fletcher — Fletcher helped lead a \$250,000 overhaul of the Naval Air Station Whidbey Island Automated Carrier Landing System and the Instrument Landing System, both key components to the safety of flight operations for deployable squadrons. He also volunteered as a Department of Defense Civilian Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Facilitator to provide training for 220 civilian employees.

Beth Leone-Mullins — Leone-Mullins led the Morale Welfare and Recreation Department through a period of financial cuts that caused a reduction in operating hours, closure of some facilities and furlough. When necessary, she led a team of managers to cover shifts. She also managed \$5 million worth of repair, renovation and new construction in her department.

Gary Whittaker — Whittaker led the clinical staff as acting chief of services and developed a tracking spreadsheet for all Family Advocacy Program cases. As subject matter expert, he helped service members resolve personal and family issues, so they can stay focused on the Navy mission.

Shaun Willis — Willis played a key role in the planning, development, creation, execution and implementation of multiple web-based tools and data analysis projects that benefited the customers of Navy Region North West. One tool was a singular database that tracks more than 900 appropriated funded civilian positions.

Marvin Young — Young's efforts in the workplace resulted in an increase in internal communications capabilities through the enhancement of video teleconferencing technology and the increased use of internet broadcasting. His discovery, and subsequent elimination, of redundant telephone and communications lines and services saved \$200,000 annually. These accomplishments and others provided the basis for his selection as Civilian Supervisor of the Year.

Naval Station Everett

Ethel Abadam — Abadam revised procedures for processing pay and entitlements for reservists. A new streamlined process, these procedures cut operational training time by 20 percent, resulting in



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sailors receiving their pay 10 days earlier on average. Her innovation is being adopted by the Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System and will result in the savings of millions of dollars.

Alan Estrella — Estrella achieved a 0 percent error rate in processing applications for 577 passports for military personnel assigned in foreign countries and embassies.

Leslie Freitas — A tugboat captain, Freitas prevented a civilian ship from colliding with installation property and warships as it moored into the Port of Everett. This accomplishment resulted in saving the costs of repairs that would have resulted had the collision occurred.

Aaron Johnson — Also selected for the Naval Station Everett Civilian of the Year and Navy Lodging Supervisor of the Year, Johnson saved the Navy more than \$162,000 by using volunteer projects, surplus federal equipment and supplies for trail repairs and lodging improvements. He contributed to completing more than \$150,000 of facility improvements, helping increase patronage. This was reflected in customer feedback and by the increase of 1,000 return visits by customers.

Jeff Ziemer — Award winner of the Naval Station Everett Civilian of the Year, Ziemer worked successfully with the Military Sealift Command in bringing the newly designed Mobile Landing Platform vessel to Everett Washington.

Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility

Lisa Ames — Ames led the coordination of the Human Resources Office and Operations Center with senior management, developing and implementing an overall command administrative policy. She also led more than 10,000 employees through the hiring freeze, cancellation of personnel actions and administrative furlough. Once the furlough lifted, she processed 400 new hire candidates.

Joel Atteberry — As lead Navy mechanic at the shipyard, Atteberry innovated a special catapult rail drilling machine that can be used on all aircraft carriers. Off duty, he volunteers with Habitat for Humanity, Adopt a Highway, North Kitsap Fishline and he tutors elementary students in math.

Danielle Babione — Babione contributed in developing and maintaining the New Employee Rotation Plan for newly-hired engineers. The employee guide she developed set the standard for



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other branch guides and the mentor program she initiated provided a way for senior engineers to contribute to the occupational development of new hires.

Keziah Brown — For the San Diego Detachment Training Office, Brown developed an efficient tracking system that facilitated the up-to-date status for a variety of training. As a field monitoring team expert, she trained team members to appropriately respond to accident scenarios, tracked and remedied a range of training and medical exam problems.

Clayton Souza LaFontaine — As an electrician trainee, LaFontaine flawlessly assembled power distribution centers, assembling the parts and pieces at a steady rate using blue prints and instructions. For his performance, he earned a position in the Naval Shipyard Apprenticeship Program.

Craig Cassels — For his commitment to blood drives, Cassels was awarded the U.S. Navy Compassion Award. Over the past eight years, he donated blood platelets more than 130 times, equaling more than 16 gallons of donations.

Christopher Espinoza — Espinoza organized the only employee-led Voluntary Protection Program Zone Inspection Team in his command. Efforts like this, together with his ability to effectively resolve safety issues, resulted in the shipyard receiving Star Site status. Star Site is the highest safety rating designation issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Timothy Fleming — Fleming was recognized as a leader among his peers, a mentor to junior co-workers, for his work ethic, vast technical knowledge, apt capabilities as a welder in maintaining the Trident Submarine Fleet.

Rene Garza — Garza excelled in his role as safety supervisor on USS Long Beach (EX CGN 9), overseeing a safety record of zero injuries among a crew that included 1,000 new hires. For accomplishments like this, he also earned the Commander's Excellence in Safety Award.

Shannon Haney — Haney work had direct impact on dry-docking two Navy assets on time. Under tight schedules, he led a docking crew through all the processes, from running optical instruments for establishing reference lines to building the settings.



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Dareld Jolliffe — Demonstrating expert technical skills on shipyard capabilities in executing repairs, Jolliffe developed a comprehensive test plan for two class submarines that provided a complete technical evaluation of system performance and operation. He further used this evaluation process as an effective and invaluable training vehicle in the areas of system specific maintenance, basic trouble shooting and test equipment operation.

Emily Knutson — Knutson was the command lead for performing workload and workforce studies that was approved and adopted by all four naval shipyards. The data from these studies supported both external and internal initiatives. She incorporated input from all four shipyards in order to analyze all of the potential options and unique needs of each shipyard.

Nichole Laroche — Laroche is responsible for the success of the shipyard's heat induction removal process. The work that was performed by her crew on projects using the heat induction tool allowed welders to complete extensive repairs on schedule, exceeding all expectations and saving hundreds of hours of labor.

Johnnie Martin — Martin was recognized for his impact in his workplace through his leadership, integrity, high standards and accountability. His leadership aboard USS Stennis (CVN 74), in particular, led to the improvement of quality standards across multiple areas of performance. Examples of projects he participated in are Sea Chest and Sandblast patch installations.

Jennifer Moser — Moser led and transitioned Hazardous Material Management System Central to a new inventory management program. She streamlined ordering and requisitioning procedures, which improved accuracy of tracking and receiving material. Her knowledge of supply processes made her a subject matter expert.

Dale Osmanson — Osmanson improved the process of replacing piping during an emergency in a restricted location. The tool he designed and developed to accomplish this is the first of its kind in the Navy and will be used by other shipyards. His support of development of process improvements has resulted in substantial savings, schedule savings and first time quality.



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Dewayne Ostby — A Marine pipefitter helper trainee, Ostby completed all pipefitting work on projects with a first-time quality result. During audits, his work had zero findings. For this, he received the shipyard's Hero To Zero Award.

Joel Periot — Periot was recognized for the high output and high quality of his welding craftsmanship. These qualities resulted in decreasing man hours and costs of re-working and making additional repairs. His skills were honed, in part, from qualifying in the shielded metal arc welding process and other welding processes that require special testing.

Michael Richardson — As a proven leader with experience in diving, rigging and production, Richardson coordinated and supervised 250 accident-free dives. The projects he undertook were completed on time and under budget, resulting in cost savings.

Deane Shephard — Shephard was recognized for his community service. As coach and administrator of the Kitsap County High School rugby team, his program stressed academic achievement, character building and good citizenship. He and his family also care for foster children, taking in siblings so they are not separated.

Gabriel Sullivan — Sullivan's Work Assist Process generated savings by coordinating work on USS George Washington (CVN 73) with work done in Japan. This process reduced the number of maintenance employees needed in Japan. He also led a team of engineers to successfully complete emergency repairs aboard USS George Washington.

Carol Tyler — A subject matter expert in the metrology and calibration program, Tyler identified underlying faults in the quality program and helped determine remedies. She prioritized work for 15 mechanics, workers and apprentices that resulted in the completion of 7,000 items with a turnaround of fewer than 14 days, well below average.

Delbert Zurbrugg — Zurbrugg was recognized for his attention to detail, willingness to teach, overall workmanship and exemplary effort during 2013 and during his entire career with the S/56 Marine pipefitters and within his command.