

37th Federal Employee of the Year Awards Program

A photograph of an astronaut in a white spacesuit standing on the lunar surface. The astronaut is wearing a helmet with a clear visor and has a large life-support backpack. The moon's surface is covered in dark, fine-grained soil and numerous footprints. A long shadow is cast by the astronaut onto the ground. The background shows the dark, curved horizon of the moon against the blackness of space.

50th Anniversary of the
Lunar Landing

Hosted by the
San Francisco Federal Executive Board
June 19, 2019



JOHN CABECA
CHAIR, GOVERNING COUNCIL

SAN FRANCISCO FEDERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD
90 7TH ST. SUITE 18-300
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

JUNE 19, 2019

DEAR COLLEAGUES IN PUBLIC SERVICE,

ON BEHALF OF THE *SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA FEDERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD* (SFFEB) AND THE ENTIRE FEDERAL COMMUNITY, IT IS MY HONOR AND PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU TO OUR 37TH FEDERAL EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR AWARDS CEREMONY.

JULY 20TH, 2019 IS THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LUNAR LANDING, AND IT TOOK A STELLAR GROUP OF CIVIL SERVANTS TO MAKE THE IMPOSSIBLE, POSSIBLE.

IN 1961, PRESIDENT KENNEDY CREATED THE FIRST TEN FEDERAL EXECUTIVE BOARDS, INCLUDING OURS. WE CONTINUE TO INCULCATE AND IMPLEMENT THE IDEAS FROM OUR COLLEAGUES, THEREBY TO IMPACT NOT ONLY THE FEDERAL COMMUNITY BUT THE POPULATION-AT-LARGE. CURRENTLY, THE SFFEB REPRESENTS 160 AGENCIES AND 44,500 FEDERAL EMPLOYEES IN THE NINE-COUNTY BAY AREA.

OUR VALUES INHERENT IN PUBLIC SERVICE INCLUDE INTEGRITY IN LEADERSHIP, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION THROUGHOUT ALL LEVEL OF THE GOVERNMENT, STEWARDSHIP, COMMUNITY, AND AN UNYIELDING COMMITMENT TO INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION & EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE.

THE *FEDERAL EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARDS* IS THE BAY AREA FEDERAL COMMUNITY'S OPPORTUNITY TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE EXTRAORDINARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OUR NOMINEES AND FINALISTS, AS WELL AS THE DEDICATION, HARD WORK, AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ALL OUR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES. EVERY DAY, FEDERAL EMPLOYEES DERIVE REWARDS FROM KNOWING THAT THEY ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS. TODAY WE TAKE TIME TO CELEBRATE.

I WANT TO THANK ALL THE AGENCIES AND NOMINATING OFFICIALS WHO TOOK THE TIME TO NOMINATE THEIR EMPLOYEES AS WELL AS THE *PEER REVIEWERS* AND *BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE* WHO EVALUATED THE NOMINATIONS.

CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF OUR NOMINEES AND AWARD WINNERS! THANK YOU FOR YOUR EXCEPTIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS IN PUBLIC SERVICE.

RESPECTFULLY,

John Cabeca

2019 SFFEB CHAIR
DIRECTOR, WEST COAST REGION
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Keynote Speaker

Daniel Andrews

Director of Engineering/Project Manager
NASA Ames Research Center



Daniel Andrews is the Director of Engineering at NASA's Ames Research Center. While retooling the engineering organization at Ames, he is also working closely with NASA-Headquarters in Washington DC to develop the first US robotic rover mission to the moon. These mission plans follow on the heels of the ground-truthing LCROSS mission, which confirmed the presence of billions of gallons of water-ice on the South Pole of the Moon. Dan oversees capabilities-driven, cost-effective missions.

Dan received his Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from San Jose State University and his Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University. He started his career at NASA's Ames Research Center as an automation and controls engineer. He worked on many diverse robotic technology demonstration projects, including the development of a 3-axis Exobiology Robotic Table, a Serpentine Robot, an Autonomous Rotorcraft, and the Personal Satellite Assistant Project. His work has appeared in *Newsweek*, *Popular Science*, and *Air & Space Magazine*, and his work was named one of the, "50 Best Robots Ever" in *Wired Magazine*.

Dan has received numerous NASA awards including the Outstanding Leadership and Exceptional Achievement Medals and several Group Achievement awards. His teams have received several industry awards such as *Popular Mechanics'* Breakthrough Award, the *Space Foundation's* "John L. 'Jack' Swigert Jr. Award for Space Exploration", the *National Space Society's* Space Pioneer Award, and was a nominee for the *Aviation Week* Laureate Award.

Master of Ceremonies

Marco Ambriz

Pastor, First Covenant Church of Oakland

Marco Ambriz serves as the Lead Pastor of First Covenant Church of Oakland. FCC Oakland's vision is to "Break Down Barriers, Build Up People and Be a Light for the City." While serving his church community, Marco finds it a privilege to work alongside city, community, and government leaders who give of their time and resources for the betterment of Oakland and the Bay Area. A child of immigrants from Mexico and Nicaragua, Marco spent his early years in Texas but has proudly called Oakland his home since 1998. In his spare time, he can be found roasting his coffee beans, taking in a Houston Astros game at the Coliseum, geeking out over nearby galaxies through the telescopes at Chabot Space & Science Center, or reading one of the 13 books currently on his nightstand. Marco is a husband to his high school sweetheart, Nicole, and dad to two amazing kids, Dikaio & Elea, ages 9 and 8.



“Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has Landed.”
Neil Armstrong

37th Federal Employees of the Year Awards Ceremony

Welcome
John Cabeca

Chair San Francisco Federal Executive Board
Director, Silicon Valley Patent and Trademark Office

Presentation of Colors
Pledge of Allegiance

**Golden Gate chapter of the Commissioned Officers Association of the
U.S. Public Health Service**

Master of Ceremonies
Marco Ambri z

Keynote Address
Daniel Andrews
Director of Engineering
NASA Ames Research Center

Presentation of Nominees
Marco Ambri z

Presentation of Chair Award
John Cabeca

Closing Remarks
Sara Russell, Director
Daniel Veale, Deputy Director
San Francisco Federal Executive Board

Blue Ribbon Committee

This group reviewed the finalists and determined this year's awardees.

Andrew Adelman

Andy served over 25 years in the Federal Government as a Special Agent with the US Secret Service. He began his career in 1989 in Washington DC and held numerous field assignments in Los Angeles, Boston, and San Francisco. He was assigned to protect three Presidents and their families from 1998 - 2009, and in 2009 he was appointed to the Senior Executive Service. In 2011 he was promoted to become the Special Agent in Charge of the San Francisco Field Office. While in San Francisco he was a member of the San Francisco Federal Executive Board and was fortunate to assist with mentoring future government leaders in the Leadership Development Program. He retired from the Secret Service in 2014 and now serves as the Senior Director of Global Security at BlackBerry, the security software and services company headquartered in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.

Carol Keller

Carol recently retired as Chief of Staff for District 21 at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. She started her career with the legacy Immigration and Naturalization Service in 1988, initially working for the Legalization program in Laguna Niguel, then as an Examiner in 1990 at California Service Center. She is a distinguished leader who succeeded in many programs including; applicant reviews, marriage fraud cases, and spearheading backlog reductions. In July 2016 she completed a tour of duty in Amman processing refugees.

Kevin Werner

Kevin Werner has worked at NASA Ames Research Center for 40 years, in both staff and management positions, in both Finance and HR. He currently manages the Center's Leadership Development program and the Center's Employee Coaching program. At this point in his career, his greatest joy is seeing people develop and grow as individuals as they discover and embrace what brings them passion in life.

Nomination Reviewers

Class of 2019
Leadership Development Program
FEYA Group Project

James Franco
General Services Administration

Mercedeh Ghorab
Department of Labor

Christine Munroe,
NASA Ames Research Center

Darren Orgel
Health and Human Services

Sandy Su
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service

Amelia Whitson
Environmental Protection Agency



Award Categories

All categories accept both individual and team nominations. Individual and team submissions are judged separately in each category.

Acquisition and Contract Professionals

This category recognizes individuals or teams employed in the contracting profession. The nominee shows exceptional performance and results in promoting innovative acquisition solutions, creating contracting processes or awarding contract actions that demonstrate substantial savings and efficiency to the customer/taxpayer, increasing small business contract/subcontract participation, and awarding contracts under extreme challenges and making selfless commitment and sacrifice to the mission.

Administrative Professionals

For performing administrative professional or clerical duties, and shows exceptional performance and results. Administrative professionals perform a variety of clerical and administrative duties that are necessary to run an organization efficiently and effectively.

Civil or Criminal Law Enforcement

For those who perform civil or criminal law enforcement, and has shown exceptional performance and results. This category recognizes people who work to investigate suspected criminal activity, refer results of investigations to the courts, and administer the temporary detention of suspected criminals pending judicial action. Nominations may be for sustained meritorious service or a specific heroic act.

Equal Employment and Diversity

For those who show exceptional performance and results in promoting equal employment and diversity in the workplace. Nominees for this category demonstrate efforts in growing a diverse, high-performing workforce that reflects all segments of our society; cultivating an inclusive work environment, creating an engaged organization that leverages diversity, and facilitating outstanding, responsive public service.

Management

For those who demonstrate superior leadership and management excellence through significant contributions that lead to furthering the mission or goals of the organization and the federal government. This category is for managers, supervisors, or team leads in any position who has shown exceptional performance and results using leadership skills to guide others in their field of expertise, coaching and developing the workforce, empowering employees to be results driven, and rewarding and recognizing employees or teams.

Professional

For an individual or team employed in any of the professions and specialized fields, who have shown exceptional performance and results. Nominees should be highlighted for their competence, efficiency, and accomplishments in their professional field.

Science and Technology

For an individual or team employed in any scientific or technical field who has shown exceptional performance and results. There are no educational requirements to be nominated in this category. Nominees may be employed at any level of professional work, but they will be compared and should be nominated, based on their competence, efficiency, and accomplishments in their field.

Service to the Community

For an individual or team who, through volunteering services on their own time, have forged a bridge between federal employees and the service needs of their community in which they live. Examples: volunteering in organizations that serve individual or community needs.

Trades and Crafts

For those employed in Wage Grade positions or equivalent military positions, related to a specific trade or craft, who have shown exceptional performance and/or results.

Uniformed Military (Active or Reserve)

For an individual or team of uniformed military personnel in any field who have shown exceptional performance and/or results for outstanding performance of duty. This category includes military officials who are based at any of the nine-county Bay Area installations.

Individual Finalists

Russell Berzansky

Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service, San Jose Field Office

Supervisory Immigration Services Officer Russell Berzansky provided tireless and innovative support to his managers and staff and the San Jose Field Office, leading by stellar example during a year of dramatically increased workloads and daunting technical challenges caused by the introduction of a new Electronic Immigration System. Also, his guidance, dedication, and sound judgment helped the office hire and retain new officers, enhancing the workplace environment, and ensuring opportunities for succession for staff. His dynamic leadership, creative problem solving, and determined efforts greatly contributed to the success of the entire office.

Michael Bridges

San Francisco Veterans Affairs Health Care System

Michael Bridges is the Transfusion Service Manager of the San Francisco VA Health Care System's transfusion service, which supports blood needs for complex cardiac surgery and patients with hematologic malignancies. In recognition of his leadership and expertise, he was invited by the VA Central Office to be a subject matter expert for the VA Center project blood bank software update. To reduce errors in blood bank specimen labeling, he implemented a project to decrease the rate of specimen rejections from 0.7% at baseline to 0.3%. His leadership was essential in this important patient safety improvement for the Health Care System.

Terry Brown

U.S. Coast Guard

As the Coast Guard Pacific Area Awards Specialist, Mr. Terry Brown provides comprehensive management of the agency's awards program for all personnel assigned from the Western United States to Asia. He administers regional award boards, processes award submissions for approval at Coast Guard Commandant and DHS Secretarial levels, and prepares all awards signed by the Pacific Area Commander. Terry provides technical support to four regional District commands and 33 Coast Guard Cutters and field units, representing over 13,000 personnel. In the last 24 months, he prepared over 600 personal awards and coordinated nominations for 15 different department/agency recognition programs.

Ana Brucelas

Defense Contract Management Agency, Sunnyvale

Ms. Ana Brucelas, Management Assistant, Defense Contract Management Agency, provides exceptional support and customer service to the DCMA Lockheed Martin Sunnyvale Contracts Team, which administers over 180 contracts for the US Air Force, US Navy, and Missile Defense Agency, worth 90 billion dollars. An exceptional team player, she mentored and trained junior assistants to develop successful and efficient business rhythms. Additionally, she reviewed over 30 policies to mitigate compliance hazards and risks. Ms. Brucelas' outstanding organizational and analytical skills provide insights to leadership to enable improved decision making, focus, and efforts in carrying out the Contract Management Office's mission.

Javier Castro

San Francisco Veterans Affairs Health Care System

Javier Castro, Senior Administrative Officer to the SFVA Health Care System Director, is a professional, collaborative, and compassionate. He exhibits great initiative and demonstrates extraordinary skill in the day-to-day management of the executive office. He has completely revitalized the systems and processes related to the management of the office. As a Veteran, he has great empathy and compassion for his fellow Veterans. This is evident in the way he goes above and beyond to ensure the needs of our Veterans are addressed promptly. It is also evident in the integrity, poise, and professionalism he demonstrates every day.

David Chen

Department of Treasury, San Francisco Mint

David Chen is a press die setter operator for Coining at the San Francisco Mint. David has been very instrumental in helping the Mint achieve its goals as he has provided support on countless projects such as volunteering on special programs, testing Production Validation/Design Validation special programs, and performing new chemical testing on various denominations. He has gone above expectations when working on the Commemorative programs, Breast

Individual Finalists

Cancer, and WWI Marines medal. He took the initiative and worked with the team to produce exceptional coin quality during production.

Whitney Chestnut

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service, San Francisco Field Office, Fraud Detection and National Security

Whitney Chestnut embodies the meaning of public service. Since coming back from her tour overseas with the Peace Corps in the Kyrgyzstan Republic where she was known for going above and beyond to serve others, she has augmented her public service by serving as a shelter coordinator for the Red Cross during disasters, organizing an annual blood drive in her office, installing free smoke detectors in the community with the “Sound the Alarm. Save a Life” program, and volunteering with the “Cycle for Sight” event to support San Francisco’s Light House for the Blind and Visually Impaired. She lives by the philosophy: we can do better.

Sharon Clayton

San Francisco Veterans Affairs Health Care System

Sharon Clayton provides exceptional service far above and beyond expectation. In the past two years, she has proven herself as a go-getter, problem solver, and point person for almost any administrative problem that arises. Ms. Clayton has efficiently processed close to 400 educational trainees and dedicated herself to becoming a trainer for disruptive behavior classes to meet the mission of the agency. Due to her proactive, dedicated work, the medical service at the SFVA is rated as THE BEST educational site for medical students and residents. Sharon’s motto is “Striving for Excellence!” and she lives this philosophy every day at work.

Jennifer Conole

U.S. Coast Guard,

As the Transition & Relocation Manager and Ombudsman Coordinator for District Eleven (California, Arizona, Nevada & Utah), Jen provides exceptional customer service to our members, and their families, not just for the Bay Area, but for the entire U.S. Coast Guard’s Eleventh District. She effectively managed & coordinated much needed training and resources that positively affected 20,000 military, retired and dependent personnel, at over 70 units & tenant commands, which are dispersed over a geographical 100 million-acre span. Through her in-depth & proactive methodologies, she aided thousands of individuals with the capabilities to succeed within or outside of military service.

Stephen DeMedeiros

NASA Ames Research Center

Mr. DeMedeiros serves as an Auditor at Ames Research Center (ARC) and as a member of the NASA Senior Audit Advisory Group. He provided superior programmatic support to NASA’s development and implementation of consistent contract audit and pricing practices, while simultaneously supporting source selection activities for supplies and services valued at over \$2 billion. His review and disposition of over \$6 million in complex claims and requests for equitable adjustment resulted in an average cost avoidance exceeding 20 percent. His untiring efforts enabled focused cost control during the acquisition process, preserving programmatic funding to enhance support of critical NASA missions.

Neil Gordon

San Francisco Veterans Affairs Health Care System

In 2018, Neil Gordon transformed the Community Care program at the San Francisco VA Health Care System. He led the team to excellence by maintaining a diligent focus on results while ensuring a compassionate and unassuming approach toward executing organizational change. Whether negotiating with our community partners to repair frayed relationships or communicating to internal and external stakeholders the impacts of regulatory change, Mr. Gordon’s impartiality, persistence and gregariousness were essential to the success of the program.

Raymond Hansen

San Francisco Veterans Affairs Health Care System

As the Administrative Officer for Patient Care Services, Raymond Hansen demonstrates exceptional performance in his duty of overseeing process and procedures relating to the largest service line in the organization. Mr. Hansen spearheaded a collaborative team in developing an entirely electronic system of processing and tracking annual nursing proficiencies which significantly improved completion rates by 74%. He also designed a similar portal for the Nursing Professional Standards Board that effectively reduced workloads and expedited the promotion and hiring of Nurses. His innovative efforts always lead to improved efficiency and outstanding outcomes.

Ann Kelly

San Francisco Veterans Affairs Health Care System

Ann Kelly is the Coordinator of the San Francisco VA Health Care System's Hospice & Palliative Care program. Her dedication to Veterans at the end of their lives enhances Veteran care within our Medical Center and the community. She brings training and education to VA staff and community providers. In 2018/2019, she led goals of care conversation training for over 50 nurses, social workers, nurse practitioners, chaplains, advanced practice nurses, fellows, and medical students. She also revived the Hospice-Veteran Partnership program, teaching community hospice providers about unique Veteran needs, with participants from 19 community-based hospices.

Jennifer LaForce

Department of Homeland Security, Citizenship and Immigration Service, District 21

As the District Training Officer (DTO) Jennifer LaForce developed and implemented an innovative and comprehensive career development program that provided employees and managers with practical training and experiential exercises to help them better understand the hiring process and achieve more successful hiring outcomes. Several day-long career development programs were conducted in our San Francisco and Sacramento Field Offices. The program included training sessions about a variety of hiring topics and mock job interviews. In addition, emphasis was placed on building a diverse and successful workforce. The program has become a model for nationwide implementation.

LT Dan Lagdon

U.S. Coast Guard

LT Dan Lagdon has provided vital engineering assessments and strategic planning that set the stage for critical funding infrastructure supporting Coast Guard missions for the entire West Coast, Hawaii, Guam, and Alaska. Combining engineering proficiency and cutting-edge use of technology, LT Lagdon produced highly informative engineering drawings and issue papers that have supported decisions at the highest levels of the Coast Guard. His timely and highly detailed documents are the cornerstones used in support of the Fiscal Year 2018 and 2019 Unfunded Priorities Lists ultimately employed by Congress to insert nearly \$86 million into the Coast Guard acquisition portfolios.

Rena Lambert

San Francisco Veterans Affairs Health Care System

Rena Lambert is an Occupational Therapist at the San Francisco VA Health Care System's Community Living Center (CLC), on a multidisciplinary team called the Social Focus Cohort (SFC). These Veterans are struggling with mental illness and medical impairments, which obstruct them from participating in care and cause behavior that disrupts staff and other Veterans. Rena demonstrates investment and passion beyond the work assignment. Specifically, Rena has devoted many hours developing and implementing creative programming for these Veterans and creating the groundwork for a new program for CLC Veterans with medical impairments, mental illness, and dementia.

Harry Lampiris, MD

San Francisco Veterans Affairs Health Care System

For over 25 years, Dr. Harry Lampiris has made an indelible impact as a doctor, teacher, and leader in infectious disease. He deserves specific recognition for his recent work in fiscal stewardship for our health care system. In the last two years, Dr. Lampiris has helped reduce the use of unnecessary and expensive testing, while still maintaining a level of exceptional care. Though his hard work, collaboration, and insights, this project managed to reduce the number of expensive send out labs by 23%, while providing exceptional care.

Corine Li

Environmental Protection Agency, Pacific Southwest Region

Corine Li consistently demonstrates superior leadership and management excellence, achieving tangible results in safe drinking water to communities in EPA's Pacific Southwest Region. Corine supervises a group of engineers, scientists, and environmental specialists to ensure the delivery of safe drinking water and protection of public health throughout the Region. She works closely with our state, tribal, and Pacific Island territory partners who implement the Public Water System Supervision program for over 10,000 drinking water systems serving 57 million people. Corine's stellar leadership yields outstanding performance and results and significant process improvements.

Individual Finalists

Maria Lopez

NASA Ames Research Center

Maria C. Lopez aspires to create unique opportunities for underrepresented STEM communities. Maria serves as the NASA Ames liaison to the San Jose State University Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement Program, and she is dedicated to connecting these students to incredible scientists and engineers and the highly acclaimed NASA. Her community involvement includes supporting the Ames Hispanic Advisory Committee for Employees, Ames Disability Advocates, Maranatha Summer Program, Hispanic IT Executive Council Foundation, and STEMBoard. Maria's service to the community makes for a tremendous impact on NASA, STEM, and our community that enriches us all now and for the future.

Richard (Rick) Lower

Defense Contract Management Agency, Sacramento

Mr. Rick Lower as a visionary and hard-charging leader of the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) Sacramento Quality Assurance team responsible for oversight activities of over 45 Department of Defense contractors in the greater Sacramento area covering over 1000 square miles with a contract value of over \$300M. Rick supervises activities of nine geographically dispersed quality assurance representatives responsible for supporting diverse military platforms such as Air Force's U-2 Spy Plane, Global Hawk Unmanned Air Vehicle, B-52 bomber, and C-130 gunship. Rick is also the catalyst behind several process improvement initiatives that have impacted a large number of employees across numerous DCMA offices in our Western Region to include California, Nevada, Arizona, and Washington State.

Alicia MacDonald

Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations

ICE-Homeland Security Investigations Special Agent (HSI SA) Alicia MacDonald led multiple HSI and state & local tactical Special Response Teams that executed six high risk arrest warrants on suspected members of two aligned cliques of Sureños. (Sureños are groups of loosely affiliated gangs that are also foot soldiers for the Mexican Mafia prison gang and are known to be involved with transnational and violent criminal activities such as murder, violent assaults, drug trafficking, and extortion). The culmination of this operation was the result of an intensive, nearly decade long investigation conducted by a persistent and tenacious MacDonald and a San Francisco Police Department Detective. These alleged gang members were all federally indicted in March 2018 for violating multiple laws pertaining to Racketeering Conspiracy. In a 16-count indictment, the government alleged that 9 of the 10 gang members were involved in at least seven homicides that occurred between 2006 and 2013 in San Francisco and Richmond, California. These homicides would have remained unsolved if SA MacDonald had not spent several years meticulously investigating these Sureños members and the decades of violence alleged to have been committed by these vicious gang members.

Stephanie Merek

San Francisco Veterans Affairs Health Care System

Stephanie Merek supports two national VA research programs and has been an integral part of the success of these two projects. She has successfully coordinated the recruitment of over 5,000 Veterans to the Million Veteran Program, putting the San Francisco VA Health Care System in the top 10 recruitment sites over the last year. She has also served as the project manager for a multi-site, mobile health technology study where SFVA serves as the coordinating site. During her time on these projects, she has overcome multiple barriers to ensure Veterans can eventually be a part of a novel research program.

Sabrina Middaugh

San Francisco Veterans Affairs Health Care System

As a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN), she routinely steps up to take responsibility for contacting patients and coordinating care in a manner that truly benefits our Veterans. Sabrina takes a genuine interest in all of our Veterans, and she is beloved by our patients. Sabrina's efforts ensure that outpatients receive timely care, our practitioners have clean and well-maintained instrumentation immediately available, and that our cancer patients are supported throughout their treatment course.

Individual Finalists

Rushelle Millan

San Francisco Veterans Affairs Health Care System

As the face someone sees when walking in the Quality Management Department at the San Francisco VA Health Care System, Rushelle is a natural in delivering top-notch service. While supporting our various Program Managers, she found time to devote her Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt project to SFVAHCS's Medical Center Memorandums update project. When the scope was identified as being too big for a yellow belt project, she focused on providing teaching tools and eliminating redundant work. She helps lead a LEAF implementation for services to file concurrences electronically, allowing workflow tracking. These analytics will help improve renewals moving forward. She never creates any unnecessary issues, never turns down any tasks or assignments, and communicates well with everybody.

Melvin Olivares

San Francisco Veterans Affairs Health Care System

Melvin Olivares has been a consummate professional and invaluable team member to the Engineering Department at the San Francisco VA Health Care System. Every day Melvin goes above and beyond to ensure that Veterans and staff have a safe, clean and functional facility to receive care and work. Without hesitation, Melvin repairs a plethora of equipment and ensures all repairs are done quickly and correctly the first time. Melvin takes the initiative in training new employees and explaining to them the synergy of our systems to allow them to complete their mission and take care of Veterans.

Tonja Pardo

Department of Labor, Veterans Employment Training Service

Ms. Tonja Pardo, Oregon State Director, Department of Labor, Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS), is nominated for this prestigious award based on her exceptional leadership, coaching and mentorship from 2018-2019, while serving as the Director (DVET) for two states: CA and OR. She served as a role model and mentor for the CA employees, as well as both a new Director, and shortly thereafter, an Acting Director. In between these vacancies, she consistently stepped in at a moment's notice to complete management tasks, mission critical reports, and oversee training requirements, filling a critical void in the Region's largest state.

Karen Radman

San Francisco Veterans Affairs Health Care System

As an Advance Medical Support Assistance in the Home Telehealth Department at the San Francisco VA Health Care System, Karen Radman has provided unwavering administrative and technical support to countless specialty and primary care providers. Her tireless efforts contributed to a significant increase in the number of health care providers who can now provide patient care via video technology -- a tremendous benefit for our Veteran patients. She is an independent critical thinker who thrives in complex adaptive environments.

Caroline Rudisel

NASA Ames Research Center

Carolina Rudisel demonstrates exceptional performance in promoting equal employment and diversity at NASA Ames Research Center. She is a strong leader who champions for an inclusive and team-oriented environment that welcomes diverse backgrounds and viewpoints. Carolina holds board positions as the Chair of Administration and Membership with the Hispanic Advisory Committee for Employees and as the Protocol Officer with the Ames Veterans Committee. In these roles, Carolina is a leading force in guiding these committees to promote the development, inclusion, and innovation of Ames Research Center's workforce with a focus on employees of Hispanic descent and veterans.

Cynthia Russell

Department of Treasury, San Francisco Mint

Cynthia Russell, Coining Supervisor for the US Mint at San Francisco, recently had her responsibilities expanded to include Material Treatment and the Pressroom. Also, Coining needed to produce two types of special coins the Apollo a unique 'dome-shaped' coin and the American Innovation. Cynthia performed coin blank processing tests; inspected coins at the press; reassigned team resources, and motivated her team to do their best. As a result of her exceptional supervisory efforts, the US Mint met its goals for the Apollo and the American Innovation programs.

Individual Finalists

Antonieta Santos-Kremling

San Francisco Veterans Affairs Health Care System

Nieta's journey as the acting executive assistant to the Associate Director (AD) began in 2018. The combination of her positive attitude, attention to detail and precision, and a background in systems improvement have made her an invaluable resource to the office, which encompasses 13 administrative services. During the prolonged absence of a staff member, Nieta helped maintain regular operations and ensured special projects continued to move forward. She has made the office run efficiently while providing professional and exceptional customer service to all San Francisco VA Health System stakeholders.

Kathleen (Katie) Sarmiento, MD MPH

San Francisco Veterans Affairs Health Care System

More than 1 million Veterans are affected by sleep apnea, and access to sleep care is severely limited. Dr. Sarmiento has established a regional and national telehealth network, TeleSleep, to reach rural Veterans with sleep disorders to improve access, reducing rurality as a disparity in sleep care. Since March 2017, TeleSleep has trained 105 clinicians and non-clinicians and provided care to more than 51,000 Veterans, of which 33% are rural. More than 50% of sleep care at the San Francisco VA, Health Care System, is now provided through telehealth or at rural clinics, reducing travel burden and the cost for the health care system, while improving patient satisfaction.

Guiomar Scheid

San Francisco Veterans Affairs Health Care System

Ms. Scheid is the program specialist for the San Francisco VA Health Care System's Epilepsy Center of Excellence. In the face of reduced national administrative support, Ms. Scheid stepped up and excelled in managing our local program. She is the heart of our center and a tireless advocate for our patients to receive comprehensive care. She spearheaded the expansion of epilepsy telehealth services, particularly video-to-home visits, thereby improving access to care. She has also provided the key support needed to establish a cognitive-behavioral therapy program for patients with non-epileptic seizures. When faced with any challenge, she researches solutions, implements them and prevails.

Stacy Sorensen

San Francisco Veterans Affairs Health Care System

A dynamic leader, Stacy Sorensen single-handedly managed over 20 Specialty Care Clinics while covering for a vacant counterpart Nurse Manager and Chief Nurse positions. Her take-charge attitude ensured seamless operations while implementing processes to improve productivity and efficiency. These included: remodeling of 41 exam rooms; training staff in Consult Management; developing an electronic system for Return to Clinic Orders and creating an electronic form for overtime requests. A true advocate for Veterans, Ms. Sorensen ensured that our priority and focus is not deterred or distracted from our purpose, which is to serve those who have served.

Milagros (Miles) Steele

Department of Labor, San Francisco Office of Job Corps

Ms. Miles Steele, Division Chief of Operations for the San Francisco Office of Job Corps, served as Acting Regional Director for the Chicago Office of Job Corps for more than nine months. She led a region with multiple vacancies into compliance with reporting requirements, policy adherence, and brought the region back on schedule with assessments, monitoring, and oversight. Also, she continued to participate in her home region conference calls, monthly reporting on desk audits, and corrective action tracking.

Michi Yukawa, MD, MPH

San Francisco Veterans Affairs Health Care System

Dr. Michi Yukawa, Community Living Center (CLC) medical director, has created a truly Veteran-centered, inter-professional culture of care and service. She promotes clinical excellence in caring for some of VA's most vulnerable, medically ill, older Veterans. She is a superb role model, teacher, clinician, researcher, leader, mentor, and team member. She is beloved and respected by CLC inter-professional staff, who appreciate her collaborative and caring approach. Dr. Yukawa exemplifies the generous, caring, intellectual, and compassionate qualities that any organization would be proud to recognize as the professional Employee of the Year.

Team Finalists

Administrative Professionals Team

National Labor Relations Board, San Francisco Field Office

The National Labor Relations Board (Board) protects private-sector employee rights to select or reject a union or to band together for mutual aid or protection. The Board carries out its mission upon the filing and docketing of unfair-labor-practice charges and union-election petitions. Docketing charges and petitions are the crucial internal first step to initiate the public services we provide. Since about August 2017, the Board has endeavored to streamline the docketing process and alleviate the workload of field offices with fewer people through a centralized-docketing pilot program. That program has resulted in the administrative professionals in the San Francisco field office (SF Group) expertly and efficiently docketing over 600 petitions and charges filed in our sister field offices in Oakland, Los Angeles, and Denver, in addition to our own. By docketing timely and accurately, the SF Group ensured that all parties involved were promptly made aware of the labor dispute or the union-election petition and that we initiated our internal processes sooner. Additionally, by lightening loads of other offices, the personnel in those offices were able to focus their time and attention on the next phases of the work. The tireless efforts of the SF Group prevented delayed services to the public and helped to bring labor disputes to a more expedient resolution.

Apollo 11 Coining Team

Department of Treasury, San Francisco Mint

The US Mint at San Francisco needed to produce 175,000 Apollo 11 Proof Clad Half Dollar coins in 27 days. These coins had a 'smearing' issue which greatly reduced die life. The San Francisco Mint Team performed testing on the coin blank and die processes. Finally, a new Physical Vapor Deposition (PVD) die coating resulted in over 400 coins between polishing (a 4,000 % increase). This yielded a dying life of about 1,500 coins (a 2,900 % increase) which allowed production to be completed in only eight days (a 70% reduction).

ICARE Team

San Francisco Veterans Affairs Health Care System

Information Technology (IT) is the heartbeat of telemedicine and the San Francisco VA's IT team keeps telemedicine healthy and thriving in the Bay Area and beyond. The San Francisco VA is a leader in telemedicine with 14,359 patient visits in 17 unique medical specialties during FY18. FY19 data projects 17,384 patient appointments, a 17% increase! These programs would not exist, let alone grow and expand, without the outstanding technical support they consistently receive from our IT experts throughout the year. Our staff work behind the scenes ensuring the networks, servers, hardware, and software are constantly monitored, updated, and maintained.

Intensive Management for Patient Aligned Care Teams

San Francisco Veterans Affairs Health Care System

Intensive Management for Patient Aligned Care Teams (IMPACT), a multidisciplinary clinical team, provides care to Veterans with complex care needs in the San Francisco VA Health Care System. The program cares for the most complex patients, filling a critical need that is not met by any other team. They work, and problem solves outside the boundaries of the Medical Center and provide creative, resourceful plans of care. IMPACT is rapidly deployable and exceedingly nimble; offers comprehensive, wraparound services; streamlines interventions; optimizes care; reduces costs; improves reimbursement and embodies the VA's mission to provide holistic, well-coordinated, patient-centered care. Besides the utility of the team itself, the health care providers who make up the IMPACT are making a significant impact on Veterans.

Nurse Survey Team

Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

The Nurse Survey team members of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Division of Survey and Certification have provided much needed ongoing technical assistance and customer service to the Medicare certified healthcare providers located in the Outer Pacific Territories of Guam, Saipan and American Samoa. The tireless efforts and dedication of this team has resulted in substantial measureable improvements of the quality and delivery of healthcare (as well as promotion of access to care) to the beneficiaries and citizens of these rural remote islands nearly 6,000 miles away from San Francisco.

Team Finalists

Operating Picture California Wildfires

Environmental Protection Agency, Pacific Southwest Region

The Region 9 office of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) played a critical role in responding to the 2017 and 2018 wildfires in California. An EPA multidisciplinary team developed an innovative, web-based tool to support emergency planning, preparedness, and response activities. The Common Operating Picture data platform enhanced situational awareness, increased access to data and simplified rapid decision-making. The team's efforts significantly improved the efficiency and effectiveness of EPA's response to the Northern California wildfires.

Outreach Team

Silicon Valley U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Mission focused on establishing a regional presence, Regional Assistant Director Stephen R. Koziol and Regional Outreach Officers Ken Takeda and Julie A. Mason are recognized for their dedication and teamwork at the Silicon Valley United States Patent and Trademark Office. They helped under-represented and under-resourced communities and increased engagement on intellectual property awareness and policy matters for the seven western states of the country, all while creating developmental opportunities for USPTO employees. Working seamlessly together, this small team enabled the Silicon Valley USPTO to reach over 100,000 students, entrepreneurs, innovators, and intellectual property professionals at over 1,200 events since the office first opened in late 2015.

San Francisco Bay Area Tri-Bureau Team: Carol Keller, USCIS, Sabrina Sweat-Kajogbola, ICE, Leticia Romero, CBP U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service, District 21

San Francisco Bay Area Tri-Bureau partners developed an innovative and robust program to broaden relationships, share best practices and training, and connect agency stakeholders with US Citizenship and Immigrations Services, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Customs and Border Protection agency missions. Managers shared best practices, observed complex fieldwork, and shadowed operations. This program significantly enhanced collaboration and improved operational effectiveness of DHS operations. Through implementation of the Tri-Bureau Partnership, DHS immigration agencies have maximized effectiveness by developing partnerships, sharing training, engaging the community together, and strengthening relationships to strategically develop employees, serve the community, and secure the Homeland.

U.S. Commercial Service Silicon Valley Office

U.S. Commerce International Trade Administration

This award highlights the outstanding and unique contributions of the professionals at the U.S. Department of Commerce International Trade Administration's U.S. Commercial Service Office in San Jose/Silicon Valley. This team has established the office as a pacesetter for excellence and community impact across ITA's 100+ U.S. field offices. The office serves one of the most demanding and fast-moving regions of the nation and works to ensure that that thousands of America's most promising innovators are informed of and well-equipped to act on opportunities in international markets.

Women's Leadership Initiative

U.S. Coast Guard

The Coast Guard Women's Leadership Initiative (WLI) – Bay Area Chapter supports leadership training, mentoring, and professional development opportunities for Coast Guard Women. Notably, the Bay Area Chapter hosts the largest annual Coast Guard Women's Leadership Symposium which has become a beacon for the advancement and support of women in the Coast Guard and beyond. These symposiums are offered at no cost to local military units, enabling over 600 service men and women to attend in the past two years. Additionally, the Bay Area Chapter has championed agency personnel policies aimed at removing impediments to women's continued service.

SAN FRANCISCO FEDERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD CHAIR AWARD

SUSAN A. DWYER

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISOR, OFFICER IN CHARGE CDC SAN FRANCISCO QUARANTINE STATION

Susan has dedicated 40 years to federal public service. She began her CDC career as a Public Health Advisor with the Bureau of State Services in 1979, working 11 years with the STD program in Los Angeles and New Orleans. Susan was there during the height of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic, and she worked tirelessly to help control this disease among other STDs. In 1990, Susan joined the CDC's Division of Global Migration and Quarantine as a Quarantine Inspector in New York Quarantine Station and became Assistant Officer in Charge in 1992 and transferred to San Francisco Quarantine Station a year later.

She has been instrumental in effectively responding to various crises and outbreaks of public health significance including SARS, H1N1, MERS, Ebola, Zika, and Measles through the strong partnerships that she has forged with other federal, state, local and international partners. Susan leads the communicable disease preparedness planning activities at SFO International Airport.

Her temporary duty assignments have included: Miami, Florida for the 1991 Cholera Outbreak in Peru; 1992 Haitian Refugee Response at Guantanamo Bay; the 1993 Cuban Refugee processing at Chrome Detention Facility, Homestead, FL; the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics; an ILI outbreak on a cruise ship in Anchorage, AK; the Seattle and Miami Quarantine Stations; and Liberia during the 2014 Ebola Outbreak. Susan lived a year in South America (volunteer service-1975) before working with the CDC. Susan received her BA in Foreign Languages from Bellarmine College, Louisville, Kentucky. She uses her Spanish skills whenever she encounters the chance and has a great ability to connect with people from all walks of life.

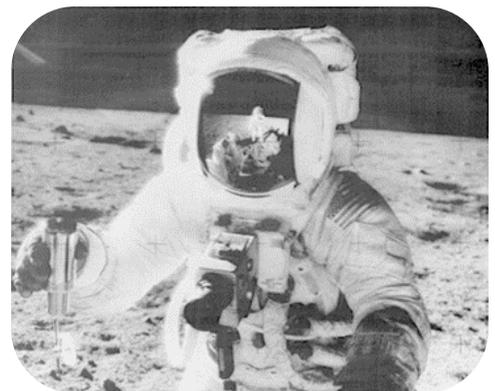
Passengers who might need assistance at SFO and run into Susan are usually in luck as she goes above and beyond to help them out. Susan gives from the heart. Susan has always been supportive of her staff's professional development and encourages them to participate in the Federal Executive Board training and leadership programs while she stays behind to watch over the station.

She says the rewards of her job include, "always knowing there's plenty of opportunities to be of service, the honor of working with such dedicated people, in public health, and public service arenas, and having spent very little time being bored since working for CDC."

History of the originals of QUARANTINE: The practice of quarantine, as we know it, began during the 14th century to protect coastal cities from plague epidemics. Ships arriving in Venice from infected ports were required to sit at anchor for 40 days before landing. This practice, called quarantine, was derived from the Italian words quaranta giorni, which mean 40 days.

The Public Health Service Act of 1944 established the federal government's quarantine authority for the first time. The act gave the U.S. Public Health Service responsibility for preventing the introduction, transmission, and spread of communicable diseases from foreign countries.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provided quarantine equipment and procedures for the United States space program, including the Apollo moon landings.



SAN FRANCISCO FEDERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

2019 GOVERNING COUNCIL

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What do the Federal Executive Boards do?

Increase the effectiveness of the Federal Government by strengthening coordination of government activities.

The Federal Executive Boards (FEBs) were created by Presidential Directive in 1961 to foster **communication, coordination, and collaboration** among Federal field agencies. FEBs build interagency partnerships and community involvement to create and nurture working relationships that address issues of shared interest. The FEBs are a constructive, unifying force within the Federal Government. In the course of its more than 55-year history, the FEB system has proven its value in ensuring a clear and effective communications between all levels of Government.



How big is San Francisco Federal Executive Board?

SFFEB encompass the nine-county Bay Area which has over 160 federal agencies and over 44,000 employees.

Who is a Member of the SFFEB?

The highest ranking Federal leader of each agency in the Bay Area is a member of SFFEB. Members represent civilian, military, postal and law enforcement agencies, both small and large. FEBs operate under the oversight of OPM by 5 CFR § 960.

SFFEB's Governing Council

All members and their designees are eligible to serve on the SFFEB's Governing Council. The purpose of the Council is to give direction to the programming of the SFFEB as well as a providing a forum for Federal collaboration.

Who can attend SFFEB Programs, Meetings & Training?

All Federal staff is welcome.

A National Network

Across the nation, in 28 locations, FEBs provide a forum for local Federal leaders to share management challenges and strategies to meet agency missions and goals, identify common issues, develop collaborative efforts to address those issues, and share best practices among their peers. Our areas of emphasis are; Employee Preparedness, Employee Safety and Security, Workforce Development and Support, and Strategic Partnerships.



WWW.SFFEB.US
415-625-2461



Locations of Federal Executive Boards

Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Buffalo, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Colorado, Dallas, Detroit, Honolulu, Houston, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Minnesota, New Mexico, New Orleans, New York, Newark, Oklahoma, Oregon, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, San Antonio, San Francisco, Seattle, South Florida



"That's one
small step for
man, a giant
leap for
mankind."

Neil Armstrong

Acknowledgements

Howard Grodin, Photographer
Department of Labor

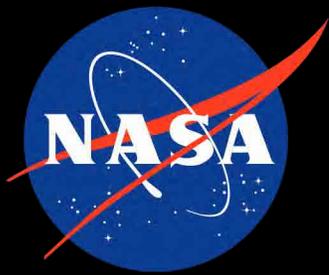
Michael Barnes, Printing
Government Printing Office

Program Development
SFFEB Rotation Associates
John Kaucher, Department of State
Tiffany Albin, Department of Energy
Michael Hassett, U.S. Coast Guard

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National Active and Retired Federal Employees
Chapter 65

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Vini Singh, Federal Employees Health Benefits
Kaiser Permanente

Venue
Dolby Laboratories
Heath Hoglund, VP
Sean Murphy, VP
Samantha Goldstein
Nancy Gribler



"Here Men From The Planet Earth First Set
Foot Upon the Moon, July 1969 A. D.
We Came in Peace For All Mankind."

Apollo Lunar Plaque



www.sffeb.us



San Francisco Federal Executive Board 2019 Federal Employee of the Year Winners

Environmental Protection Agency
Corrin Li

Operating Picture California Wildfires Team
Harry Allen
Peter Guria
Cheryl Henley
Kay Lawrence
Daniel Meer
Stacy Takeda

Defence Contract Management Agency
Ana Brucelas

**Department of Homeland Security
San Francisco Bay Area Tri-Bureau Team**
Carol Keller
Sabrina Kajogbola
Leticia Romero

DHS - U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service
Whitney Chestnut
Jennifer LaForce

DHS - Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Alicia MacDonald

Department of Labor
Tonja Pardo

Department of Treasury - U.S. Mint
Cynthia Russell

Apollo 11 Coining Team
Paul Lewis
Linh Ung
Joe Vasquez
Monica Barnes
Joseph Chan
Cynthia Russell
David Chen
Monte Bolmer
Pansy Mier
Arthur Flores
William Tan
Tess Gatmaitan
Shaun Castro
Micky Fernandes
Loretta Dickerson

Department of Veterans Affairs
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Rena Lambert
Dr. Harry Lampiris
Melvin Olivares
Dr. Katie Sarmiento
Stacy Sorensen
Dr. Michi Yukawa

IMPACT Team
Dr. Nathan Ewigman
Stephen Forte
Angela Bodnar
Jessica Eng

**Health and Human Services
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
The Nurse Survey Team**
Alex Garza
Ed Japitana
Renie Soria
Francoise St. Aubin

NASA
Paul DeMedeiros
Maria Lopez
Carolina Rudisel

U.S. Coast Guard
Jennifer Conole
LT Daniel Lagdon

Women's Leadership Initiative
LC Dawn Black
LT Laura Delgado
LT Rebecca Fox
LT Jessica Jacobsen
LT Ruth Sadowicz
LT Holly Moore
LT Kim Capp
CWO Marlene Tolliver
CWO Sarah Linayao