Admiral Zumwalt Award for Visionary Leadership

LCDR Ashley O’Keeffe, USS Lassen (DDG 82)

E7–O4 Winner

LCDR Ashley O’Keeffe is the centerpiece and driving force behind all successes onboard LASSEN. Her work as Plans and Tactics Officer in integrating and coordinating across all departments was a key factor in winning the coveted 2018 Battle “E” award. Impressively she rallied her divisions to excel throughout a challenging and dynamic Composite Training Unit Exercise with the Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group. LASSEN received consistent positive praise throughout the exercise for maintaining our combat system, fully operationally ready and capable above all other strike group units. This achievement was a testament to her hands-on leadership and ability to lead and inspire Sailors to not merely complete tasks but to stand out and perform well above expectations. Her can do attitude, involved leadership style, and genuine care for fellow Sailors, make LCDR O’Keeffe most deserving of this prestigious recognition. Her Commanding Officer states, “LCDR O’Keeffe is a powerhouse leader who was directly responsible for much of our success. I rely on her daily for her involved and dynamic leadership style. If LASSEN were to go into harm’s way, I would want Ashley as my Tactical Action Officer leading our Sailors to victory. Her incredible grasp of this destroyer’s combat system and fighting capability is only rivaled by her genuine care for my crew. LCDR O’Keeffe is performing well beyond her pay grade and I feel privileged to serve with her.” She is an outstanding representation of the ideals demonstrated by Admiral Zumwalt.

BM1(SW) Cheryl Shaw, USS Whidbey Island (LSD 41)

E3–E6 Winner

BM2 Shaw is an outstanding leader for all crewmembers on Whidbey Island. Her military bearing in and out of uniform is superb. As a second-class petty officer, she has become Deck Department’s Leading Petty Officer supervising 36 Sailors, which includes senior enlisted, her peers and junior Sailors alike. Her passion for excellence and vision is exceeded only by her concern for her fellow shipmates and their well-being and inspires her department to outstanding performance and remarkable achievement. BM2 Shaw’s talent covers multiple departments. Her leadership and actions were a major factor in passing SARR, ATTT, and AVCERT certifications on the first try without discrepancies. She also planned and directed the removal and replacement of over 1100 feet of flight deck nonskid and the removal, refurbishment and reinstallation of both ship’s anchors. Finally, her brilliant manpower, time and workload management skills lead to the successful overhaul of 15 needy spaces throughout the ship. BM2 Shaw’s attention to detail and dedication to training and crew advancement also led to a record number of sailors in her division being advanced and approved by striker selection boards for rate designation. Lastly her interest in crew morale and social well-being was demonstrated by her taking over control of the ship’s welfare and recreation program and planning as well as executing highly successful events that stimulated camaraderie and spirit throughout the command. Commanding Officer Whidbey Island states, “In my 20 years in the Navy, I have never been as impressed with a junior Petty Officer or as inspired by one of my shipmates as I am with petty officer Shaw!”