



**The San Diego Fleet Week Foundation
“Making a Difference Award”
2021 Information and Award Criteria**

The annual San Diego Fleet Week Foundation “Making a Difference” award recognizes an enlisted member of the active duty military services who has made extraordinary contribution to the San Diego military or civilian community during the preceding year. **Service deserving of this special recognition must be well above any established standards associated with the position or billet in which the service member currently serves.**

The 2021 “Making a Difference” will be presented at the San Diego Fleet Week Foundation Annual Enlisted Recognition Lunch, (ERL) which will be held in the Nautilus Pavilion at Sea World San Diego on Tuesday 9 November 2021

Making a Difference Award Criteria for nomination:

1. A service member E-6 and below that has provided outstanding support or service to the San Diego community in a non-combat related activity or role which reflects positively on the San Diego community and his/her command in any of the following areas:
 - Improves the quality of life for military members and their families in the San Diego area.
 - Improves the quality of life for civilian members of the San Diego area.
 - Enhances the traditions, heritage, public image and reputation of the military in the San Diego area.
 - Supports the execution of the military mission in the San Diego area.
2. Nominations must be received in the format below NLT COB Friday 15 October 2021. Submit nominations via E-mail to judy@fleetweeksandiego.org All nominees should be available to attend the ERL on Tuesday 9 November, starting at 1100. **All COVID 19 Protocols in effect will be strictly observed at the luncheon.**
3. The “Making a Difference Award” finalist from each branch will be notified through his/her chain of command NLT COB Friday 29 Oct 2021.
4. The “Making a Difference Award” Winner will be announced at the luncheon.



Format for submission:

Include the term: “Making a Difference Award” in the subject line of the E-mail

Full Name, Rank, Branch of Service and Command of nominee

Justification for Nomination: (Not to exceed two pages)

Name, Rank, and Title of person submitting the nomination

Include E-mail address and Tel# for Command POC.

Examples of types of support/service by previous Awardees:

- **Personal acts of heroism in the community**
- **Volunteerism in the community**
- **Leadership roles outside the work environment**

Sample of previous award submissions:

Sample #1

“Petty Officer [REDACTED] has shown great dedication, leadership, selflessness, and compassion towards her community over the past year. She believes in community strength, and understands that having shared goals is the first step in bolstering that strength. With this in mind she continuously volunteers for environmental conservation efforts while encouraging others to do the same. She has taken part in five beach clean ups and various park restorations in the San Diego area. Accumulatively she has removed over twenty pounds of trash off multiple beach fronts improving their overall appearance, and increasing the quality of life for San Diego's native wild life. When restoring parks Petty Officer [REDACTED] removes litter, washes, and sanitizes park structures ensuring that children are playing on and in clean environments. She also goes the extra step and removes graffiti from the parks and surrounding area. This reduces the amount of exposure the children have to gang paraphernalia in their local communities. Petty Officer [REDACTED] dedication to her community doesn't stop at environmental conservation. She also shows great leadership when organizing volunteer events in the San Diego community. For instance, she recruited thirty-two sailors onboard [REDACTED] in escorting various Girl Scout troops. onboard USS Midway for their 21st annual award ceremony. She led the sailors in: preparing for the ceremony, servicing food, hosting activities as well as assisting with parking and taking tickets for the event. In total Petty Officer [REDACTED] and her sailors amassed 350 hours of community service. After volunteering for the Girl Scouts award's ceremony, she spent several days learning about the history of USS Midway so she could continue giving back to her community as a hostess for new visitors. She continued to demonstrate her leadership skills rallying



seventy-five sailors in crafting holiday cheer bags for deployed service members. This boosted moral for 5,000 service members overseas as well as their family members living here in San Diego. Her sailors would end up putting 250 hours into this heartfelt gesture. Petty Officer [REDACTED] has shown endless dedication towards her community and understands both physical and mental health is vital for a strong community. Thus, she frequently volunteers her time to support community runs to include the Night Nation Color Run, Cinco de Mayo Run/Walk, Bay Bridge Run/Walk. During these events she coordinated the registration of participants to include [REDACTED] Sailors and eighty other sailors across the waterfront. During each event she helped to ensure participants stayed hydrated and physically well throughout the run. She also passed out T-shirts and medals once the event was finished. In addition to her community runs, she volunteered as the Soft ball Jr. Coach for Perry Elementary school. As the Team Coach, she led and taught her team many positive attributes. She made sure they understood the value of teamwork, good sportsmanship, and commitment. It might be easy to overlook the value of these lessons for kids of this age, but it's imperative to remember that habits tend to form at a young age. In her decision to coach this softball team Petty Officer became an important cornerstone in the development of everyone that was a member of her team. Petty Officer great attributes to the community were from the dedication and participation in providing support through many hours to the Crisis text hotline. This service offers 24/7 access to trained crisis counselors. People use this program to reach out for help in some of their most dire moments. Sometimes the individual just needs to know someone is there whereas others might request more long-term help, but the first step is always reaching out She guaranteed service to countless personnel reaching out for help acquired the necessary resources needed to begin recovering and undoubtedly saved many lives in the process. Petty Officer [REDACTED] greatly impacted communities throughout greater San Diego Area with her work as a Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Uniformed Victim Advocate (SAPR UVA). With over 500 hours of training she helped spread vital information to service members. This Information didn't just reduce the amount of assaults in the Navy, but also in the surrounding San Diego community and beyond. By arming individuals with this knowledge, she ended disasters before they even started. Petty Officer [REDACTED] has proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that she genuinely cares about the community. She energetically: improves the physical environment, organizes community events, teaches the youth of our nation, and strives to improve individuals' physical/mental health."

Sample #2

At a time where volunteer opportunities are scarce due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing, [REDACTED] stepped up to the plate for a cause he and several others foresaw becoming a grave issue. At the onset of the pandemic, grocery stores (amongst others) were chaotic due to large crowds and ran bare on essential supplies. Wait times and long lines started to become a burden for many residents, and simple trips to the store for necessities posed high risk situations for some of our community's most vulnerable members. Meal delivery services were actively being shut down as the food industry tried to grasp what they could/should do at the onset of the pandemic in the United States. As [REDACTED] observed government-provided



social service programs struggle to serve the greater community, he and a group of friends felt the senior citizen community was being left to fend for themselves and decided to take action. They created Stay Home San Diego, a crisis relief non-profit designed to aid the COVID-19 vulnerable senior citizens by delivering groceries and essential products, such as over the counter medications, to their door free of charge. This organization was designed to afford senior citizens maximum health protection by requiring and promoting minimal contact with public citizens. [REDACTED] was an inspirational asset for Stay Home San Diego from its inception on March 17, 2020 to June 2, 2020. He contributed over 120 hours in guiding the acquisition, organization, packaging, and delivery of over 16,000 bags of groceries and essential products to the senior citizens of San Diego County (approximately 6,500 households), via hundreds of volunteer drivers. Omar assisted in coordinating with multiple entities such as other non-profits, grocery stores, local business owners and the general public to acquire donations consisting of groceries and essential items. Those that could not donate physical products were able to provide cash donations which were used toward more goods for senior citizens. He devised and led a logistically-sound system for organizing products in an efficient manner, enabling volunteers to find products quickly and package them according to request slips filled out by senior citizens. He also devised and led a geographically-based delivery system throughout San Diego County, allotting hundreds of delivery volunteers the choice of which geographic region they desired and facilitated continuous participation amongst volunteers. On any given day, approximately 200 bags would be delivered thanks to [REDACTED] leadership and guidance of several other volunteers within the confines of “in-house” operations. His team strived to relieve stress and anxiety from the elderly and their concerned family members. Mitigating the reason for elderly to go out in public minimized the effect the virus had on the senior citizen communities of San Diego. As soon as the first restrictions were lifted and meal/grocery delivery services began to operate effectively, Stay Home San Diego discontinued providing services. However, [REDACTED] continues to assist seniors that are reaching out for help to organizations that can properly provide the assistance they need.”