



TECHNOLOGY MOVING AT THE SPEED OF THOUGHT®

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Geeks Giving Back

TekSynap's **Bart Pittari** was recently awarded the President's Volunteer Service Lifetime Achievement Award for his lifelong commitment to building a stronger nation through volunteer service. Bart received the award in recognition of over 4,000 hours of service to multiple organizations in the Greater New Orleans community. As the director of Geeks Empowering Extraordinary Kids (G.E.E.K.), Bart fervently raises funds that benefit local schools. His efforts have helped fill the unmet needs of students in special needs classrooms through the donation of tech devices such as iPads and Chromebooks (which he usually delivers in cosplay as Dr.Strange!) Since 2012, Bart has also served on the board of Louisiana Young Artists & Young Authors (LAYAYA) while tutoring youth in math and donating his time and energy wherever needed.

The National Volunteer Award was created in 1970 to recognize Americans who go above and beyond to serve through volunteering. It was adopted as the recognized Presidential Volunteer Award by the Office of the President of the United States in 1977 because President Jimmy Carter firmly believed in the act of volunteer service. The award was renamed the President's Points of Light Volunteer Service Award 19 years ago following President Bush's "Points of Light" speech which credited volunteerism and community service as the foundations of the success of our country. Since that time each president in the White House has continued the tradition of honoring those citizens who give selflessly through volunteer service. Bart exhibits outstanding character through his dedication to our community and we at TekSynap are proud to congratulate him as he is recognized for his steadfast humanitarianism.

Bart is part of the TekSynap New Orleans team supporting the Department of Interior (DOI) Bureau of Safety & Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Technical Information Management System (TIMS) Technology Services Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA). To recognize Bart's efforts, TekSynap donated 5 Apple iPads to GEEK in September.

Sara Thompson, BOEM



The Exciting World of Health Insurance Premiums

Every year when we start talking about insurance renewal options, I get a knot in my stomach. On average, the cost of health insurance increases 7% each year. It seems more often than not, most people are going to see an increase in their premiums. With inflation and medical costs through the roof, I must admit that I approached this renewal with shrouded optimism.

I am proud to share that for the fourth consecutive year we were able to maintain our premiums on our CONUS medical plan. How, you may ask? We worked with our insurance broker and made some adjustments to our plan design by underwriting the risks of the expected claims. In short, TekSynap has entrusted you to use your medical wisely. We are committed to providing our employees the best medical care and entrusting them to use the plan wisely so that we continue to keep our premiums from increasing. The details are not exciting, but the bottom line is that each employee plays a large part in the management of medical costs with the decisions they make.

As a self-insured plan, TekSynap pays the cost of the claims our employees and their dependents incur. These costs are what drives premiums. In order to keep rates down, we all need to make cost-conscious medical decisions. Here are a few items that make a big impact:

- Going to an urgent care for minor medical issues as opposed to the emergency room can save thousands of dollars.
- Price comparing prescription costs between pharmacies is beneficial. This will help your HRA funds go further.
- Annual health check-ups are important. Preventative care and early detection can save your life.
- Choosing in-network healthcare providers.

At the end of the day, we're all in this together. We want to continue offering robust benefits at reasonable rates. It all adds up and it's important to know the role we each play in the bigger picture.

Ruben Hormostay, Director of HR



Bringing the Team Together

Led by **Ray Caruso** and **Bianca Berrios**, the BA 3 leadership recently convened to strategize for growth in 2024 and beyond. These meetings were designed to maintain focus on current projects while stimulating long-term thinking.

In a thoughtful approach to team development, the day included a dynamic axe-throwing session, setting the stage for a productive dinner discussion. This unique combination aimed to enhance communication, foster collaboration, and strengthen the leadership team.

As the team continues to refine skills and cultivate deeper connections, BA 3 is poised to lead toward a prosperous future. Stay tuned for exciting developments ahead.



Gone Fishing

Bobby Tran and some of his USITC team went on a fishing expedition.

He said the two rules were
1. Be on time and
2. no work talk or you go overboard (he did make sure everyone could swim first...). He said everyone caught at least one fish and five people attended from the team. He said they are ready to plan another boating trip next year.





Caught in the Act

Eden Barr was congratulated for going above and beyond and making sure everything went smooth.

John Churchwell was applauded for providing an awesome amount of effort on an important project. He took it upon himself to find more information, regarding coding, that would allow us to lock down the application to a configuration that we required.

Irisann Glasgow was recognized for consistently stepping up when vulnerabilities require tier 2 support.

Deputy Director at NOAA personally highlighted the efforts of **Dane Diaz** and **Timothy Schemmel**, saying, "they met all of our needs and more in response to our requests for advice, equipment spares, and backup plans to cover all scenarios."

Members of our FDA Help Desk team have been recognized multiple times this year for achievements including Agent of the Month and Most Tickets Closed. Congratulations to **Allen Michael Goddard**, **Peter Nguyen**, and **Matt Lazzarino**.

Warren McQueen would like to thank **Lisa Wylie** for her support of the Air, Space, and Cyber conference, which was exceptional in all ways!

Please congratulate **Jerred Johnson** and **Claudia Dockery** for knocking their recent assignment out of the park!

Join us in identifying **Alexis Windsor** as a great contributor to the CISA contract team! Great job Alexis!

The entire **EWAS team** received the Kudos from our SVP, Stone Baggiano. Excellent job guys! It was noted, by the Government customer, that the team's committed to helping out wherever they can, even if it isn't necessarily a part of their normal duties.

Patrick Pocock and **Lester Dunn** were recognized for their ability to troubleshoot on-the-fly and their dedication to the job.

Stephen Sarracino, **Tim Clarke**, and **Shonda Bijou**, of the Help Desk team at DTRA, were thanked for providing quality service and getting a user up and running.

Saadat Bangash received the first kudos from DOI BSEE TIMS for going above and beyond on a service request. A government employee said the effort was "very much appreciated and a very different experience from the last 3 years."

Mike Bolinski was recognized for his efforts in finding assets and identifying numerous workstations.

The **Service Desk Group** at DTRA was thanked for their hard work and for their "willingness to find a way to say, "Yes".

Terrance Sullivan was recognized for his technical expertise, always positive attitude, and willingness to help a user.

Kyle White was recognized for a seamless transition into his new role as Team Lead, demonstrating exceptional initiative and taking charge in ways that have greatly impacted the team's performance.

Lesley Quezergue was thanked for her hard work and for being very accommodating of last-minute requests, resulting in the timely delivery of a finished product.

Sara Thompson was recognized for being a star at BOEM.

Joy Adams was applauded for doing a fine job and progressing at a good pace.

Tiffany Bean was recognized for all of her hard work during Open Enrollment.

Arielle Gick received kudos for her diligent effort on new hire onboards.

Don't forget to let your Quality team know about all the good things going on at TekSynap by submitting your Kudos on the **Employee Portal**.

Help us recognize our employee contributions in the monthly Newsletter.

TekTots



Congratulations to **Jessica Spencer** and her family on their newborn, Mathew Spencer II.



TekPets



Meet Bear Brown.

Bear is a Multi-Poo (Maltase and Poodle mix) who is 3 years old and came to live with our family during Covid when he was just 6 weeks old. He is extremely energetic and loves waiting for deliveries!

-Lisa Brown

Feature your pets in the next newsletter!
Send pictures of your companions on [TekSnaps](#) located on the employee portal page.
Learn how to use TekSynaps, [here](#).



Certification Corner

Adam Rockwell

CompTIA Security Analytics Expert
CASP+

Christopher Knell

ITIL Foundation in IT Service Management

Hunter Harkness

CySA+ CE

Isaiah Archer

CWNA

Ryan Miller

PMP

Nicholas Vanattia

CompTIA A+

Ethan Fajardo

Mist Wifi

Mist Location

Dennis Cole

BICSI RCDD

Warren McQueen

ITIL4 Specialist Drive Stakeholder Value

Dennis Cole

Master Project Manager

Adam Thomas

BICSI Installer 2, Copper

Nicole Ambrose-Jones

PMP



Employee Learning Program

Employees are encouraged to use the Employee Learning Program (ELP) Benefit. [Click Here](#) to access the form.

If you have earned a new certification, please add it to your ADP profile. Remember to include the effective date.

ADP > Myself > My Information > Profile

And email a copy to HR@teksynap.com

Updating your certifications in ADP will help us identify you for career advancement opportunities.

Open Positions

ATF - Washington, DC

Firewall Administrator

Senate - Washington, DC

System Consultant

Imaging Engineer

Installation Desktop Technician

VA NextGen Wireless:

Infrastructure Cabling Coordinator

Jr Wireless Engineer

VA NSOC/NEDIIS:

WAN Network System Engineer (Cleveland, OH)

Network Tools Engineer (Martinsburg, WV)

NRC SNCC:

Senior Security Engineer (Dallas, TX)



DTRA

Systems Administrator III
VTC Engineer
Firewall Engineer
Senior Helpdesk Specialist (ABQ)
Senior Security Engineer
Lead Security Engineer
Security Engineer, Staff
ISSE
Senior Systems Administrator (ABQ)

Kirtland C4

Client Support Administrator

Please email your referral resumes to careers@teksynap.com to receive up to \$5,000.

Q2 2023 Quality Objectives on Display

We all play a role in meeting our corporate quality objectives. To see how we're doing, please check out [**Q2 2023 Objective Share**](#).



Insider threat

In the last several years, Industries have seen a rise in insider-driven cyberattacks. According to the Cyber Security Firm Bridwell, approximately 77 % of these organizations has been affected by these threats. The cyber-Security in CNI: 2023 Report revealed the expanded insider threat could connected to increased economic pressures and remote working conditions. Opportunities for employees to make honest mistakes have increased for remote and hybrid settings presenting access to sensitive data or protected systems . Apart from any internal threats, cyber warfare, and ransomware attacks also continue to be substantial risks that threaten the security of many of these organizations.





Happy Five Year Anniversary

Cole Withers, Jonathan Sarty, Matt Dzoba, and David Johnson

Your \$5,000 vacation is right around the corner!

Anniversaries

Six Years

Samuel Fisher
Christopher Grant

Five Years

Cole Withers
Jonathan Sarty
Matthew Dzoba
David Johnson

Four Years

Patrick Burke
John Finigan
Jeffrey Mozo
Richele Latosinski
Ashika Jamal
Michael Thomas
Dean Lum
Maria Snow
Jimmie Lee
Aminebueh Bello

Three Years

Joseph Walker
Nola Jinnah
Christopher Witt
Elisha Lee
Landon Foster

Two Years

Paul Wojton
Kalynn Hansen
Paul Ferguson
Kellen Blake
Sean Henry
Jason Garrett
Stanley Johnson
Richard Morisset
Yadiel Valentin
Sara Parker
Quintina Poole
Brandon Hardrick
Larry Crosson

Welcome, New Employees!

Joseph Aragon
Saadat Bangash
Darry Cross
Charles Govey
Paul Harkness
Jesse Lunt
Nicholas Smith
Edward Steffens
Jacob Valderrama
Daniel Warshaw
Donavan Welk
Cindy Yu
Jike-Ere Opirijtei
Andrew Thorn
Christos Exis
Cairon Overton
Terry Jones
Thitiwat Wangsameteegoon
Martin Tobin
Aaron Taylor
Ronald Dombek
Shaun Jones
Kristi Latorre
Enrique Villanueva
Alexandra Pepen
Brian Koppel
Joseph Schaya
Geraldine Bastien
Michael Schoenwetter
Bridges Baudier
Jack Glenn
Aber Mitchelle
Charles Ryan
Dante Land
Vergil Daughtery
Traci Laatsch
Mariama Barry
Ian Gaines
Adriana Berrios
Erin Vance
Sherman Price
Canyon Lochhead
Kamal Islam

Mathew Cook
Bernard Throckmorton
Randall Powell
Mark Eubanks
Donald Long
Julian Ledford

One Year

Kathleen Milks
Nick Bergeris
Lauryn Smith
Adam Jacobson
Mary Ehlers
Sewi Sintayehu
Sharon Deakins
Hunter Vaught
Tarah Preddie
Ryan Yadao
Travis Vollrath
Daja Pattman
Stacey Hall
Christopher Woodard Jr.
Matthew Warthen
Lucas Narel
Nathan Daines
Walter Grabeklis III
Lorenzo Torralva
Tricia MCarthy
Chi Xing
Brianna Corbett
Adam Jobe

Chance Brown
Frances Chen
Lucy Jordan
Leighton Redditt
Robert Gordon
Rodger Edmonds
Vannee Deutou
Anthony Helms
Kelio Danklou
Steven Diver
Stephen Padilla
Michael Spears
Arthur Stern
Christopher Rodriguez-Sandoval
John Young
Brian Greene
Sienna Day
Steven Whiteside
Ira Leitner
Jason Pringle
Devon Fleetwood
Alberto Gomez
Jeremy Riester
Trey Wylie
Laurie Mathurin
Christopher Luddy



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