



Association of the Class of 1966¹

United States Naval Academy



LT Luke Teague, USN
USS GONZALEZ (DDG 66)
UNIT 100306 BOX 1
FPO AE 09570-1284

19 November 2024

**RE: UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY CLASS OF 1966 AWARD FOR
SUPERIOR LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONALISM FOR 2024**

Dear Lieutenant Teague:

On behalf of the Class of 1966, United States Naval Academy, I commend you on your selection as the recipient of the Class of 1966 Junior Officer Superior Leadership and Professionalism Award for 2024.

Your tremendous efforts, devotion, and dedication while serving as Navigation Officer were instrumental in GONZALEZ accomplishing a demanding pilot program for a condensed Basic Phase. Your foresight prior to the Basic Phase ensured a flawless ISIC Watch Team Evaluation and Navigation re-certification following a challenging maintenance availability. It was due to your exemplary leadership and adept management that the MOB-N mission area certified early and with a high score.

Your leadership and skill as Navigation Evaluator was pivotal in ensuring GONZALEZ safely executed 32 Sea and Anchor details and four precision anchorages during the Basic Phase. Displaying a knack for preparation and flexibility, you planned and executed a challenging Chesapeake Bay transit which included an anchorage at the Naval Academy. Your unmatched skills as an Officer of the Deck were invaluable in passing technically challenging certification events, which included: GONZALEZ' first Underway Replenishment following the shipyards, numerous flight operations, and tactical maneuvering evolutions. Your high level of knowledge and dedication to training in seamanship and ship handling has been instrumental in the qualification of 7 Officers of the Deck, as well as numerous other watch stations by fellow Junior Officers.

Keeping GONZALEZ safe during a strenuous year of underways is a highly visible and tangible mission in which you performed superbly! The safe navigation of GONZALEZ transiting over 9,000 nautical miles in 2024 is indicative of the high standards you hold for yourself, the Navigation Team, and the Watch Officers. You have demonstrated a rare combination of leadership and management skills which have set the example for all Officers and Sailors to emulate and is in keeping with the GONZALEZ motto of going "Beyond the Call".

While specifically recognizing you for your professionalism and achievements during your tour onboard GONZALEZ, my Classmates and I strongly encourage you to continue the excellent path of professional growth you have demonstrated to date. Through continuous learning and honing of your professional and leadership skills and by leading and mentoring those for whom you are responsible, you contribute directly to the very core of the Naval Service and its future.

The Class of 1966 is pleased to present you with the enclosed certificate and check in recognition for and appreciation of your outstanding performance onboard GONZALEZ. Your loyal devotion to duty and unselfish service to your Shipmates and your Country demonstrate a high level of professionalism and is in keeping with the finest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

My Classmates and I wish you much success during your naval career, and may you always go forth with fair winds and following seas. Well Done!

James A. Long, III
President, Class of 1966
United States Naval Academy