

HIDDEN HERO AWARDS

2026 | CYBER DEFENSE LEADERS | TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

AWARDEES



Al Di Leonardo

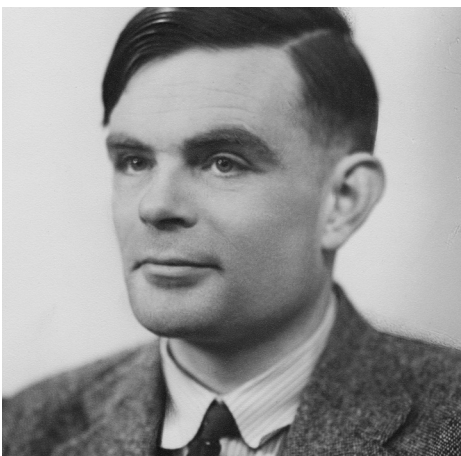
Al Di Leonardo is co-founder and co-CEO of Black Cape, an Artificial Intelligence company that develops unique AI and data capabilities that serve the U.S. Intelligence Community and Department of War. A three-time serial entrepreneur, he leveraged his twenty years as a U.S. Intelligence and U.S. Army Special Operations officer to successfully found and sell two national security companies prior to Black Cape.

He served nearly a decade at the National Security Agency (NSA) and concluded his distinguished U.S. Army career at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) and Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC). He received the Bronze Star Medal from U.S. Special Operations Command for his efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq by increasing the speed of operations through technical capabilities. Al is widely recognized as an innovator for building lasting capabilities and programs inside and outside the U.S. Government at NSA, NGA, DIA, and JSOC.



Jen Easterly

Combat veteran, cybersecurity pioneer, and former Wall Street technology executive, Jen brings decades of leadership experience at the intersection of technology, cybersecurity, and intelligence operations. Currently the CEO of RSAC, the premier global platform for the cybersecurity community and host of the world's most influential cybersecurity & AI security gathering, Jen served as Director of the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)—America's premiere cyber defense agency. Before CISA, she was Head of Firm Resilience at Morgan Stanley where she built and led the Firm's Cybersecurity Fusion Center. Jen retired from the Army after more than two decades of service, including two tours at the White House, multiple deployments, and senior roles at the National Security Agency. A graduate of West Point and Rhodes Scholar, Jen is a two-time recipient of the Bronze Star.



Alan Turing (1912-1954)

Alan Mathison Turing was a talented British mathematician and logician whose work laid the foundation for modern computer science and artificial intelligence. He made significant contributions to the field of cryptography and codebreaking in World War II and was instrumental in breaking Nazi communication encryptions. In 1935, Alan delivered his foundational paper on the universal Turing machine that could theoretically compute or solve any well-defined task when given a set of pre-defined rules or instructions. Impossible to build, his proposed device prepared the groundwork for modern computers, earning Alan the posthumous title, "the father of modern computer science." During World War II, Alan, joined by other mathematicians at Bletchley Park, designed the high-speed "Bombe" to crack Nazi enigma messages. According to some historians, Alan's contributions to the war effort saved millions of lives and shortened the war by two to four years.