



PARTNERSHIP FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

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PARTNERSHIP FOR PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCES 2018 SERVICE TO AMERICA MEDAL FINALISTS

“Oscars” of Government Service Honor Exceptional Civil Servants

WASHINGTON – The nonprofit, nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service today announced 27 *Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal* finalists for 2018 – outstanding federal employees who serve the public good and are addressing many of our country’s greatest challenges.

The *Service to America Medals* are the nation’s premier awards dedicated to honoring America’s best in government. On May 8, the finalists will be honored in Washington, D.C. as part of Public Service Recognition Week.

“Amid the political headlines, it’s easy to overlook our nation’s career public servants who perform the essential day-to-day work of government,” said Max Stier, Partnership for Public Service president and CEO. “That’s why the *Service to America Medals* are so important – they showcase the many remarkable men and women who assist their fellow Americans with passion to maintain the safety, health and prosperity of the nation.”

The 2018 finalists’ achievements include pioneering research to understand the prevalence of autism and other developmental disabilities; coordinating nationwide investigations that restored financial losses of nearly \$600 million for hundreds of thousands of people defrauded by money transfer scams; providing electricity to some 50 million people in sub-Saharan Africa through ambitious public-private partnerships; and identifying an entire new class of rare genetic diseases and treatments to alleviate suffering for thousands of patients in the U.S. and around the world.

Other finalists established sophisticated forensic exploitation laboratories to investigate terrorist activities, contributing to thousands of convictions and thwarting attacks on Americans overseas and in the U.S.; led important advancements in satellite technology to help protect people and property from approaching severe weather; and developed a first-of-its-kind traffic management system for large-scale, commercial use of unmanned aerial vehicles.

A list of the 27 *Service to America Medal* finalists is attached.

The finalists are contenders for seven *Service to America Medals*, including Federal Employee of the Year. Other medal categories include Promising Innovations; Science and Environment; Homeland Security and Law Enforcement; National Security and International Affairs; Management Excellence; and Career Achievement. More than 300 nominations were submitted for consideration this year.

Medal recipients will be announced October 2 during a gala at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium in Washington, D.C.

In addition, the Partnership will present its first honorary private-sector *Service to America Medal* at the gala to Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, who has collaborated with government through many of his wide-ranging business endeavors to advance the fields of space exploration and sustainable energy.

All 27 finalists also will be eligible for the *Service to America Medals* People's Choice Award. Beginning Friday, May 11, members of the public can vote online for the federal employee they believe has made the most significant contribution to the American people. The People's Choice winner will be announced at a Partnership event on July 19.

The *Service to America Medal* recipients will be chosen by a prestigious committee that includes American University President Sylvia Mathews Burwell; President of the University of North Carolina System Margaret Spellings; Co-Ancor of "CBS This Morning" John Dickerson; Axios Founder and CEO Jim VandeHei; President of DEKA Research & Development Corporation Dean Kamen; best-selling author Michael Lewis; Rep. David Price (D-N.C.); Rep. Phil Roe (R-Tenn.); Corporate Vice President of Microsoft Worldwide Public Sector and Industry Toni Townes-Whitley; and additional leaders from government, media, academia, the private sector and philanthropic community.

The premier and national sponsors for the 2018 *Service to America Medals* include Mrs. Ronnie Heyman and the Heyman Family, and Chevron.

Renamed the *Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals* in 2010 to commemorate the organization's founder, the program has honored more than 510 outstanding federal employees since its inception in 2002. More information about the program and the 2018 finalists is available at servicetoamericamedals.org.

During the past 17 years, the nonpartisan, nonprofit Partnership for Public Service has been dedicated to making the federal government more effective for the American people. We work across administrations to help transform the way government operates by increasing collaboration, accountability, efficiency and innovation. Visit our publicservice.org to learn more.

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2018 SAMMIES FINALISTS

CAREER ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL FINALISTS

This medal recognizes a federal employee for leading significant and sustained accomplishments throughout a federal career of 20 or more years.

Gerald Ankley, Ph.D.

Research Toxicologist
Environmental Protection Agency
Duluth, Minnesota

For three decades, established techniques and standards to identify dangerous chemicals and prevent them from contaminating America's lakes and waterways

Judith Lynn Allaire DesHarnais

Deputy District Engineer and Chief of Programs and Project Management
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District
St. Paul, Minnesota

Directed major flood-protection projects that have saved lives and prevented more than a billion dollars in property damage

Allen R. Hefner Jr., Ph.D.

Power Electronics Project Leader
National Institute of Standards and Technology, Physical Measurement Laboratory
Gaithersburg, Maryland

Developed the "Hefner model" for power semiconductor devices that revolutionized manufacturing of power conversion systems that millions of people use today, leading to trillions of dollars in energy savings worldwide

John J. Sammarco, Ph.D.

Principal Research Engineer, Pittsburgh Mining Research Division
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Led game-changing research over three decades that improved lighting in mines, advanced rescue techniques and reduced accidents and injuries

Marshalyn Yeargin-Allsopp, M.D.

Associate Director for Children with Special Health Care Needs
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Atlanta, Georgia

Pioneered research to understand the prevalence of autism and other developmental disabilities, influencing the expansion of health, social and educational services for children with special needs

HOMELAND SECURITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT MEDAL FINALISTS

This medal recognizes a federal employee or team for a significant accomplishment in fields such as border and transportation security, civil rights, counterterrorism, emergency response, fraud prevention and intelligence.

Mark L. Bathrick and Team

Director, Office of Aviation Services
Department of the Interior
Boise, Idaho

Built the largest civilian aerial drone fleet to help federal agencies fight forest fires, inspect infrastructure, monitor wildlife and natural resources, halt pollution, and conduct search and rescue operations

Stephen C. Curren and the Cyber Incident Response Team

Director, Division of Resilience
Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response
Washington, D.C.

Defended health care computer systems in the U.S. from a global cyberattack that threatened patients' health and safety

Karen D. Dodge, Margaret Moeser and Teams

Staff Attorney (Dodge); Senior Trial Attorney (Moeser)
Federal Trade Commission (Dodge); Department of Justice (Moeser)
Chicago, Illinois (Dodge); Washington, D.C. (Moeser)

Brought justice and restored financial losses of nearly \$600 million for hundreds of thousands of people who were defrauded by money transfer scams

Blake Douglas Rowe

Director, Forensic Exploitation Directorate
U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, Defense Forensic Science Center
Forest Park, Georgia

Established sophisticated forensic exploitation laboratories to investigate terrorist activities, contributing to thousands of convictions and thwarting attempts to attack Americans overseas and in the U.S.

Jeffrey Elliott Wood Jr. and the North Shore Gang Task Force

Supervisory Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Chelsea, Massachusetts

Led a record takedown of the notorious MS-13 gang, arresting more than 60 leaders and members of this criminal organization in the Boston region

MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE MEDAL FINALISTS

This medal recognizes a federal employee or team for a significant accomplishment that exemplifies efficient, effective and results-oriented government.

Guy Demeter

Data Scientist

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C.

Developed wide-ranging data management systems that enable FBI analysts to investigate criminal activity and identify threats more quickly

Ariel Gold

Data Program Manager

Department of Transportation, Intelligent Transportation Systems Joint Program Office

Washington, D.C.

Improved data-sharing to accelerate the adoption of new technologies that increase transportation safety and efficiency, including self-driving cars and vehicles that communicate with one another

Marcella Jacobs and the VA Digital Services Team

Executive Director, Digital Service

Department of Veterans Affairs

Washington, D.C.

Created online digital tools for veterans to more easily access benefits and services, delivering a high-quality and seamless user experience

Andy Neal and the NFIP Reinsurance Program Team

Branch Chief, Actuarial and Catastrophic Modeling

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C.

Persuaded private reinsurers for the first time to assume some flood damage liability, saving the National Flood Insurance Program \$1 billion in claims in 2017

NATIONAL SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS MEDAL FINALISTS

This medal recognizes a federal employee or team for a significant accomplishment in fields such as defense, military affairs, diplomacy, foreign assistance and trade.

Andrew M. Herscowitz and the Power Africa Team

Coordinator for Power Africa

U.S. Agency for International Development

Pretoria, South Africa

Provided electricity to some 50 million people in sub-Saharan Africa, while creating hundreds of millions of dollars in export opportunities for U.S. companies

David Huizenga

Principal Assistant Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation

National Nuclear Security Administration

Washington, D.C.

Managed numerous high-profile projects with foreign governments to secure large quantities of weapons-useable nuclear materials and prevent them from falling into the wrong hands

Matthew Nims and Team

Acting Director, Office of Food for Peace

U.S. Agency for International Development

Washington, D.C.

Distributed \$1.4 billion in emergency food assistance to 20 million people in four nations fighting famine and threatened by violent conflicts, saving countless lives under harrowing conditions

Hoa Thi Tran, Ph.D., and Team

Asia Team Lead, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration

Department of State

Washington, D.C.

Delivered emergency humanitarian relief to nearly 700,000 Rohingya refugees who fled violent persecution in Burma to find safe haven in neighboring Bangladesh

PROMISING INNOVATIONS MEDAL FINALISTS

This medal recognizes a federal employee or team for leading a promising discovery, breakthrough technology or innovative approach to address a significant challenge facing our country or create new opportunities for the American people.

Barney S. Graham, M.D., Ph.D. and Theodore C. Pierson, Ph.D.

Deputy Director, Vaccine Research Center (Graham); Chief of the Laboratory of Viral Diseases (Pierson)
National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
Bethesda, Maryland

Developed a promising vaccine now in clinical testing to prevent the Zika virus, which has caused serious birth defects in the children of women infected during pregnancy

Parimal Kopardekar, Ph.D., and Team

Senior Technologist for Air Transportation Systems
National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, California

Designed a first-of-its-kind traffic management system for unmanned aerial vehicles, paving the way for large-scale use of commercial drones

Jordan T. Manos

Director of Operations
Veterans Affairs Acquisition Academy (on detail to FEMA in 2017)
Frederick, Maryland

Improved the system used to assess flood damage from hurricanes and other major storms, helping residents receive aid more quickly and saving the government millions of dollars in appraisal costs

Alison Smith, Ph.D.

Chief Engineer, Materials Analysis of Electronic Component Technologies
Naval Surface Warfare Center
Crane, Indiana

Pioneered the use of nanoparticles to mark sensitive military equipment with a unique fingerprint to guard against counterfeit products and protect our nation's warfighters

SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENT MEDAL FINALISTS

This medal recognizes a federal employee or team for a significant accomplishment in fields such as biomedicine, economics, energy, information technology, meteorology, resource conservation and space.

Margaret Honein, Ph.D.

Director, Division of Congenital and Developmental Disorders
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Atlanta, Georgia

Collected and analyzed critical data to help protect women and babies from the mosquito-borne Zika virus that was spreading rapidly in the U.S. and its territories

Daniel L. Kastner, M.D., Ph.D.

Scientific Director, Division of Intramural Research
National Institutes of Health, National Human Genome Research Institute
Bethesda, Maryland

Identified an entire new class of rare genetic diseases and treatments to alleviate suffering for thousands of patients in the U.S. and around the world

Barbara G. Kutchko, Ph.D.

Senior Research Scientist
Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Helped rewrite standards for the use of foamed cement in oil wells to prevent blowouts and damaging spills, protecting workers and the environment

Soheila J. Maleki, Ph.D.

Lead Scientist in Food Allergy Research
Agricultural Research Service
New Orleans, Louisiana

Led life-changing research on the causes, detection, prevention and potential remedies for peanut and tree nut allergies, which affect up to two million American children

Tim Schmit

Satellite Research Meteorologist
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Madison, Wisconsin

Developed cutting-edge satellite technology for detecting and monitoring severe weather, helping protect people and property from approaching disasters