



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEDIA ADVISORY

**SERVICE TO AMERICA MEDALS HONOR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S TOP CIVIL
SERVANTS AND NAME FEDERAL EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**

**Winners Include Leaders of Effort to Combat Avian Flu, a Nobel Prize Winning Physicist, and
the Architect of the Personnel Recovery System that Guided Rescue of Jessica Lynch and Others
in Iraq**

Washington, D.C. -- On Wednesday, September 27th, the Partnership for Public Service will announce the 2006 Federal Employee of the Year -- a renowned CDC scientist leading the world's efforts to prepare for a catastrophic flu pandemic.

In addition, seven outstanding federal workers and one team will receive prestigious Service to America Medals at a Washington, D.C. awards gala. The 2006 winners range from a Nobel Prize Winning Physicist to the architect of our military's personnel recovery system that has rescued more than 1,000 people in Iraq and Afghanistan. Five medal winners hail from Washington, DC and others are from Atlanta, Tampa, Denver, Philadelphia and Baton Rouge.

WHAT: Service to America Medals Awards Gala to honor the 2006 Federal Employee of the Year and
Eight Service to America Medal recipients

WHO: Presenters include Ambassador Karen Hughes, Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, Department of State; Frances Townsend, Assistant to the President for Homeland Security; Rep. Chris Van Hollen and Rep. Jim Leach, among others. The Gala MC is Gwen Ifill, host of PBS's Washington Week.

Max Stier, President and CEO, Partnership for Public Service
Elizabeth Baker Keffer, Atlantic Media Company

WHEN: Wednesday, September 27
6 p.m. Reception, 7 p.m. Dinner and Awards

WHERE: Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium
1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C.

**Media must RSVP to Sarah Howe at 202-775-9111, showe@ourpublicservice.org
seating is limited**

BACKGROUND: The Partnership for Public Service and medal winners will also use this opportunity to issue a national “call to service.” Nearly half of the federal workforce will be eligible to retire within the next five years, creating a need to bring hundreds of thousands of talented individuals into government service.

The Service to America Medals (SAMMIES) program was created in 2002 by the Partnership for Public Service and Atlantic Media Company, publisher of *The Atlantic*, *Government Executive* and *National Journal* magazines, to honor our federal government’s most outstanding federal employees. It has earned a reputation as the most prestigious awards program dedicated to celebrating America’s civil servants. The nine medal winners were nominated by colleagues in the federal government -- the nation’s largest employer, with more than 1.9 million workers, and selected by a committee that includes prominent public figures such as Stanford President John Hennessy, Southwest Airlines Chairman Herb Kelleher, AOL Vice Chairman Ted Leonsis, and former Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson.

National sponsors of the Service to America Medals include founding sponsor, Siemens, along with DuPont and Lockheed Martin.

The Partnership for Public Service works to revitalize federal government by inspiring a new generation to serve and by transforming the way government works.

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