

## Service to American Medals (SAMMIES)

1. The Department of the Navy encourages you to nominate your eligible and outstanding Department of the Navy (DON) career civilians for the 2020 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals, the "Sammies". The Sammies pay tribute to America's dedicated federal workforce, and highlights those individuals who have made significant contributions to our Nation.

2. Background. Founded in 2002 as a joint effort of the nonprofit, nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service and the magazines of the Atlantic Media Company (Government Executive, National Journal, and The Atlantic Monthly), the Sammies are awarded annually. The Sammies, known as the "Oscars" of government service, are a highly respected honor with a vigorous selection process. Named for the Partnership for Public Service's late founder who was inspired by President Kennedy's call to serve in 1963, these awards align with his vision of a dynamic and innovative federal workforce that meets the needs of the American people. The medal categories include:

a. Career Achievement: This medal recognizes a federal employee for significant accomplishments throughout a lifetime of achievement in public service. Special Eligibility Criteria: The nominee must have at least 20 years of career federal civil service, not including military service, as of 1 January during the current nomination cycle

b. Emerging Leaders: This nomination category is offered to encourage special consideration for young federal employees who have made an important contribution early in their professional career. Selected finalists will be assigned to other medal categories according to the nature of their work and accomplishments. Special Eligibility Criteria: The nominee must be 35 or younger as of 1 January during the current nomination cycle.

c. Homeland Security and Law Enforcement: This medal recognizes a federal employee for a significant contribution to the nation in activities related to homeland security and law enforcement (including border and transportation security, civil rights, counterterrorism, emergency response, fraud prevention and intelligence).

d. Management Excellence: This medal recognizes a federal employee for demonstrating superior leadership and management excellence through a significant contribution to the nation that exemplifies efficient, effective and results-oriented government.

e. National Security and International Affairs: This medal recognizes a federal employee for a significant contribution to the nation in activities related to national security and international affairs (including defense, military affairs, diplomacy, foreign assistance and trade).

f. Promising Innovations: This medal recognizes a federal employee for leading a promising discovery, breakthrough technology or innovative approach that is in progress and has potential to address a significant challenge facing our country or create new opportunities for the American people. Promising Innovations, which replaced the Call to Service category in 2017, also highlights young people who have made important contributions toward a significant accomplishment early in their federal careers.

g. Science and Environment: This medal recognizes a federal employee for a significant contribution to the nation in activities related to science and environment (including biomedicine, economics, energy, information technology, meteorology, resource conservation and space).

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h. Federal Employee of the Year: This award recognizes a federal employee whose professional contributions exemplify the highest attributes of public service. Special Guidelines include: This award is chosen by the Sammies Selection Committee from among the group of finalists. The Partnership does not accept nominations directly for this category.

3. Eligibility. Career civilian federal employees of the executive branch of the U.S. government are eligible for nomination to the Service to America Medals Program. All medal categories are open to both individual and team nominations. Please note that special eligibility criteria applies for the Career Achievement and Emerging Leaders medals. Paragraphs 2.a. and 2.b. above contain additional details.

4. Selection Criteria. For each award category the nominees must show: a strong commitment to Federal service; a significant accomplishment within their field that meets the needs of the American people; and excellence in customer service to citizens or other beneficiaries.

5. Nominations. Nominations must be submitted directly to the award sponsor at <https://servicetoamericamedals.org/nominate/nomination-form.php>. In addition to the on-line submission, please provide an electronic copy (PDF) of the nomination to the Civilian Human Resources Office, US Labor Employee Relations Unit, [mcipac\\_chro\\_usemplrel@usmc.mil](mailto:mcipac_chro_usemplrel@usmc.mil).

6. Deadline. All nominations must be submitted directly to the award sponsor no later than 11:59 p.m. ET on 17 January, 2020.

7. Additional Information. For additional information, please refer to the following resources:

a. Service to America Medals website - <https://servicetoamericamedals.org/>

b. How to Write A Winning Sammies Nomination Tutorial - <https://vimeo.com/188985808>

c. Frequently Asked Questions - <https://servicetoamericamedals.org/nominate/faqs.php>

d. Selection Process and Committee - <https://servicetoamericamedals.org/about/selection-process-committee.php>

e. Medal and Nomination Categories - <https://servicetoamericamedals.org/nominate/index.php#medal-categories>

8. Awards Ceremony. Finalists are announced the first week of May during Public Service Recognition Week and honorees are honored at a black-tie awards gala in Washington, D.C. in the fall.

9. Point of Contact. For questions or assistance, please contact Ms. Nola Tolsma by phone at (202) 775-9111 or email at [sammies@ourpublicservice.org](mailto:sammies@ourpublicservice.org) <<mailto:sammies@ourpublicservice.org>> .