

After his honorable release from the Marine Corps, Elder Perry returned to Utah State University, where he earned a degree in finance and married his wife, Virginia Lee. Together, they were the parents of three children: Barbara, Linda Gay, and Lee. Family was always the highest priority for Elder Perry. Although his successful business career demanded much of his attention, he always made special sacrifices to spend time with his wife and children.

Elder Perry was also committed to balancing his busy work schedule with his church service. As his family moved across the country—from Idaho and California, to New York and Boston—Elder Perry served in various leadership positions for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, including two bishoprics, a high council, and two stake presidencies. In April 1974, he accepted a calling to serve in the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. Sadly, after serving as an apostle for only 8 months, Elder Perry's beloved wife, Virginia Lee, died of cancer. Nine years later, cancer would also take his daughter, Barbara. Although Elder Perry's life was marked by tragedy, it was not defined by it. His faith in God was unshakeable, as was his optimism. In response to heartbreak, Elder Perry said, “[The Lord] is very kind. Even though some experiences are hard, he floods your mind with memories and gives you other opportunities. Life doesn't end just because you have a tragedy—there's a new mountain to climb.”

Elder Perry never stopped climbing those mountains, and he served valiantly as an Apostle of Jesus Christ. In 1976, he married Barbara Dayton—his loving helpmeet and able partner who helped him bear the heavy responsibility of his apostolic calling. I will always remember Elder Perry for the zeal and energy he brought to every facet of his life. Nothing could temper his enthusiasm, and nothing could deter him from doing what was right.

Elder Perry never tired of his calling. He so loved meeting with church members and leaders throughout the world that he once said, “My association with great men has been not only an education, but an inspiration.” I can easily say the same of my own association with Elder Perry; it has been both an education and an inspiration, and I will always be grateful for his example.

I will never forget Elder Perry, his life of dedicated service, and his unwavering optimism. I consider myself lucky to have known him and even luckier to call him a friend. I will miss Elder Perry dearly, as will all those who knew him. I send my deepest condolences to his wife, Barbara, and their beautiful family. May God comfort them in this time of grief, and may his love be with them always.

OPENING OF THE TAIPEI ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL OFFICE IN DENVER, COLORADO

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I wish to welcome a great new diplomatic development in my home State of Colorado. Last week, Denver was proud to officially welcome the opening of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, TECO, the de-facto consulate of Taiwan in the United States. The TECO office in Denver will serve Colorado, as well as the States of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and North Dakota.

I thank Taiwan's leadership for this wise decision, particularly Dr. Lyushun Shen, the Representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States, TECRO in Washington, DC, as well as Mr. Jack J.C. Yang, the Director General of the new TECO Office in Denver.

As Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Cooperation, I am committed to ensuring that the U.S.-Taiwan partnership continues to grow and prosper. Our nations must continue to work together to ensure regional stability and to advance economic ties, including through landmark initiatives such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership, TPP.

Our friendship has never been stronger. Taiwan is now the tenth largest trading partner for the U.S., while the U.S. is Taiwan's largest foreign investor. Our people-to-people relations are flourishing, with over 20,000 Taiwanese students studying in the U.S. each year. Over 75 U.S. cities have established sister city relationships with their Taiwanese counterparts, including Colorado Springs, CO, which has been a sister city to Kaohsiung since 1983.

I know our nation's bonds with Taiwan will only grow stronger, and I am proud that Denver will now be front and center in ensuring the continued friendship between our nations and peoples. I am confident that our Taiwanese friends will not find more hospitable and welcoming hosts for their diplomats and visitors than the people of the great State of Colorado.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING SONNY SMITH

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the service and sacrifice of Johnson County Auxiliary Sheriff Deputy Sonny Smith who gave his life while in the line of duty on May 15, 2015.

Deputy Smith led a life of service. The last 11 years he dedicated to safety and law enforcement as a detention officer. He continued to serve for the past 6 years as an auxiliary deputy protecting the people of Johnson County on a volunteer basis.

Service was an important part of Sonny's life. He served his country in

the United States Navy and continued that commitment to his community when he left the military. Sonny was known for his compassion and leadership throughout Johnson County. His generosity was always on display. His fellow officers say they will remember Sonny as a humble man who was always willing to serve his neighbors. As a father of high school students, Sonny attended all the pep rallies, football games and fundraisers. He was always helping Clarksville High School. His daughters Makayla and Callie describe their dad as a man always willing to help others in need.

While he made a living working as a security guard at Arkansas Nuclear One, Sonny was a reliable handyman that many in the community reached out to for help repairing their garage doors.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Sonny's family, including his wife Amy, his daughters, and sons Dakota and Charlie.

Deputy Sonny Smith was a true hero, not only because of the uniform he wore, but also because of his final actions. By taking the lead when he responded to a residential burglary call and exercising his professional training, he saved the lives of his fellow officers.

I humbly offer my appreciation and gratitude for his selfless service to Arkansas. •

TRIBUTE TO FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, a few weeks ago, I spoke on the floor about two of the outstanding Federal workers at the National Institutes of Health and I indicated at the time that I would be speaking periodically about other Federal workers who are doing extraordinary things on behalf of the American taxpayer. People wonder where their tax dollars go; I would like to provide a few examples.

As I said at the time, “Government workers guard our borders; protect us from terrorists; treat our wounded veterans; dispense Social Security checks to our retirees; find cures for diseases; guide the Nation's air traffic; explore the tiniest particles and the vast expanse of outer space; ensure our air is safe to breathe, our water is safe to drink, and our food is safe to eat; support our servicemen and women in harm's way; and promote our interests and ideals abroad. Who does the government work for? Government Works for America.”

The Partnership for Public Service announced the finalists for the 2015 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals, also known as the “Sammies,” last month during Public Service Recognition Week. As the Partnership notes, “Federal employees are responsible for many noteworthy and inspiring accomplishments that are seldom recognized or celebrated. The Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals

highlight excellence in our Federal workforce and inspire other talented and dedicated individuals to go into public service.”

Also last month, on May 5, the Washington Post, citing an Office of Personnel Management—OPM—exit survey of senior government managers who have retired or moved to other, nonfederal jobs, reported that the single biggest factor for leaving is the “political environment”, which was blamed as a contributing factor “to a great extent” or “to a very great extent” by 42 percent of the individuals surveyed. The article, by Post columnist Joe Davidson, quoted Brian M. Kent, a retired senior-level Federal scientist, who said, “Expect to be overworked, undercompensated and mistreated by both parties on the Hill, who do not appreciate the value of our expertise, our dedication and our talents.”

Congress and the American people need to realize that the Federal workforce is a crucial asset. There are some people who dislike government so much that they want to demonize and demoralize the workforce and deter young people from considering a career in public service. That is counterproductive. Find and remove the bad apples—yes, but acknowledge that they are few and far between. Overwhelmingly, Federal workers are hard-working and patriotic Americans. Rather than denigrate them, we should treat them with respect in acknowledging their service to our Nation.

One way to acknowledge that service is through the Sammies. I am proud that so many of the finalists this year work and/or live in Maryland, spread across several agencies and several of the award categories. I would like to mention a few today.

DR. GRETCHEN K. CAMPBELL AND DR. RONALD ROSS

The mission of the National Institute of Standards & Technology, NIST, which is headquartered in Gaithersburg, MD, is to “promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards, and technology in ways that enhance economic security and improve our quality of life”. NIST’s weights and measures services, a job assigned to the Federal Government in the Constitution, provide the basis for the fairness and efficiency of sales. These services underpin the efficiency of about one-half of the U.S. economy, or about \$7 trillion of the U.S. gross domestic product—GDP. Eighty percent of global merchandise trade is influenced by testing and other measurement-related requirements of regulations and standards. U.S. companies increasingly depend on NIST to help ensure access to global markets that create new business and jobs.

Gretchen K. Campbell is a physicist at NIST and is a finalist in the 2015 “Call To Service” Medal. This medal recognizes a Federal employee whose professional achievements reflect the

important contributions that a new generation brings to public service. We are all familiar with electronics. Now, scientists like Dr. Campbell are exploring a new frontier—a circuitry system that uses the flow of atoms rather than electrons that may lead to a wide range of future technological advances. Dr. Campbell, who is just 35, is a pioneer and intellectual leader in this new and theoretical field of physics known as atomtronics, and has conducted a series of seminal experiments that show its promise and possibilities.

Using light to control matter, Dr. Campbell created the first controllable atomtronic circuit in 2011 by moving ultra-cold atoms through a wire made of light—just as electrons flow through a metal wire. She added a permeable barrier to this circuit, also made of light, to serve as the control element, much as a transistor can control the current in an electronic circuit.

Just as electronic devices manipulate the flow of electrons, atomtronic devices manipulate the flow of atoms, which are made up of electrons, protons, and neutrons. Since atoms have properties that are very different from electrons—they do not have charged particles, for instance—atomtronic devices have the potential to go beyond the capabilities of electronics.

Atomtronics will not supplant electronics, but may offer new kinds of functions and applications. An atomtronic circuit, for example, could be useful in applications such as rotation sensors, improving the functioning of gyroscopes used to stabilize spacecraft and airplanes. Atomtronic circuitry may be able to perform quantum computations that could offer a significant leap forward in computing speed, performance, and capability and lead to the next generation of technology that will enable smaller and cheaper devices.

Dr. Ronald Ross, a Fellow at NIST, is a finalist for the 2015 Homeland Security & Law Enforcement Medal. This medal recognizes a Federal employee for a significant contribution to the Nation in activities related to homeland security and law enforcement. Mr. Ross, called the “rock star of cybersecurity” by his colleagues, developed and implemented a state-of-the-art system to assess risks and protect Federal computer networks from cyberattacks, helping secure information critical to the Nation’s national and economic security. Most recently, Dr. Ross helped to establish the government-wide program for cloud security assessment and authorization.

The Federal Government used to rely on a rigid checklist approach to securing computer networks, often ignoring changing threats and evolving technology, and not always distinguishing what information needed higher security and what data was of lesser importance. Dr. Ross, belying the image of a hidebound bureaucrat, designed the Risk Management Framework as a way for government agencies to decide how

critical their various data sets are and to pick the right level of protection. With the framework Dr. Ross developed, agencies can go through an assessment process and decide where to concentrate resources and tighten security.

The impact of Dr. Ross’s work includes reducing the cost of implementing cybersecurity controls and demonstrating compliance with multiple security requirements, and enhancing system interoperability among Federal agencies. Dr. Ross and his team have worked with the General Services Administration, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Homeland Security to test and validate the risk framework unveiled earlier this year that will be used by cloud computing service providers, allowing them to host some of the Federal Government’s most sensitive information. And as the principal architect of a new national testing program and infrastructure, Dr. Ross also has been collaborating with the National Security Agency to develop the first-ever network of commercial testing laboratories capable of evaluating the security of information technology—IT—products.

ROBERT BUNGE, MICHAEL GERBER, MARK PAESE, AND GREGORY ZWICKER

The National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration—NOAA—is headquartered in Silver Spring, MD. NOAA’s mission is “Science, Service, and Stewardship”. The agency attempts “to understand and predict changes in climate, weather, oceans, and coasts; to disseminate that knowledge and information; and to conserve and manage coastal and marine ecosystems and resources”. NOAA’s research, services, and products—ranging from daily weather forecasts, severe storm warnings and climate monitoring to fisheries management, coastal restoration and supporting marine commerce—affect more than one-third of America’s GDP.

Robert Bunge, Michael Gerber, Mark Paese, and Gregory Zwicker of the National Weather Service’s Wireless Emergency Alerts Team at NOAA are also finalists for the 2015 Homeland Security & Law Enforcement Medal. They have developed a fast and geographically targeted cell phone alert system, launched in 2012, for weather emergencies such as tornadoes, flash floods, and hurricanes that reaches millions of people, saving lives and preventing injuries. So far, the system has transmitted more than 13,000 warnings for the most dangerous types of severe weather to the cell phones of millions of people potentially in harm’s way across the United States.

While other weather alert systems have been in use for years, this new method of using mobile devices and targeting very precise geographic areas is a significant improvement. It took many years of coordination with the Federal Communications Commission,

DHS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the major wireless telecommunications providers.

Previously, weather emergency alerts from one of the 122 weather service offices around the country were emailed to the Washington, D.C. office and then forwarded to FEMA, which sent the alert to affected counties using television and radio broadcast technology. Cellular companies could independently text the warning information to their cell phone customers in the affected county, but the system was slow and too broadly targeted. The new weather alert system structures the information into concise messages—90 or fewer characters—and uses geo-targeted data to broadcast the messages rapidly over cell phones only in the affected areas.

The team worked with six of the largest cell phone companies to build the sophisticated technology needed to make the system work. They developed the infrastructure and protocol for the alerts, facilitated the decision-making for the weather alerts to be transmitted, and conducted extensive public awareness and educational programs. Mr. Bunge led the technical team, overseeing the software development, the data specialists, the coding, the host servers and other information technology needs, and helped create a system that targets the cell phone alerts to specific geographic locations. Mr. Gerber is a meteorologist and a specialist in how the weather service information is disseminated, and he played a critical role in making sure the right kind of weather alerts would be available and properly transmitted. He also is credited with convincing the wireless carriers to participate and make the needed investments. Mr. Paese handled many of the complicated management issues while Mr. Zwicker was involved in training some 2,000 weather forecasters in more than 122 offices around the country to use the system in coordination with Federal emergency management officials.

Here's an example of how effective the new system is: on July 1, 2013, a tornado obliterated a dome in East Windsor, CT, where 29 children had been playing soccer. Seconds before the tornado struck, a cell phone alert prompted the camp manager to rush the children out of the dome and into an adjacent building, preventing injuries and quite possibly fatalities.

DR. HYUN LILLEHOJ

The Agricultural Research Service—ARS—is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's USDA chief scientific in-house research agency, with headquarters colocated here in Washington, DC and in Beltsville, MD. The agency's job is "to find solutions to agricultural problems that affect Americans every day from field to table". ARS conducts research to develop and transfer solutions to agricultural problems of high national priority and provide information access and dissemination to: ensure high-quality, safe food, and other

agricultural products; assess the nutritional needs of Americans; sustain a competitive agricultural economy; enhance the natural resource base and the environment; and provide economic opportunities for rural citizens, communities, and society as a whole.

Dr. Hyun Lillehoj, a senior research molecular biologist at ARS in Beltsville, is a finalist for the 2015 Career Achievement Medal. This medal recognizes a Federal employee for significant accomplishments throughout a lifetime of achievement in public service. Dr. Lillehoj has pioneered industry-leading research to improve the health of commercial poultry without the use of antibiotics, protecting consumers and making the U.S. poultry industry more competitive by saving it billions of dollars.

There is growing concern over the widespread use of antibiotics in poultry and other food industries, which health experts say contributes to the development of drug-resistant bacteria. These so-called "superbugs" infect hundreds of thousands and kill tens of thousands of Americans each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

During three decades as a molecular biologist at ARS, Dr. Lillehoj has helped mitigate the use of antibiotics in poultry, finding that certain food supplements, probiotics, and nutrients can replace antibiotics as an effective means of enhancing the immune system and fighting common parasitic diseases and bacterial infections. The USDA estimates that the poultry diseases Dr. Lillehoj is working to combat cause more than \$600 million in losses in the United States and \$3.2 billion worldwide.

Dr. Lillehoj has developed novel diagnostic and therapeutic products and discovered DNA markers for the genetic selection of disease-resistant chickens, paving the way for breeding healthier chickens that will benefit both consumers and the Nation's \$45 billion poultry industry. She has done this by creating one of the first gene libraries from commercial chickens and depositing more than 55,000 individual gene sequences from this database into the public domain, providing other researchers with information that could lead to breeding poultry with superior resistance to parasites. She also has identified natural antimicrobial molecules that have anti-cancer properties and kill infectious parasites; discovered a second-generation parasite vaccine with an improved protection profile over current vaccines; developed therapeutic antibodies that boost immunity for poultry; formulated health-promoting probiotics for veterinary use; and discovered organic, plant-derived herbal extracts and essential oils that fight infectious diseases affecting animals and humans. She is recognized as a world leader in understanding host-pathogen interactions of an avian parasite closely related to human malaria that is a major cause of disease

affecting poultry and livestock. She also has done original research on a bacterium that is one of the most common causes of food-borne illness in the U.S. Her scientific breakthroughs are documented in 10 U.S. and international patents, more than 350 peer-reviewed scientific papers, 14 book chapters, and 230 worldwide collaborations with academia, foreign governments and private industry. She has mentored more than 120 young scientists.

Dr. Lillehoj embodies the American Dream. She is from South Korea. She came to the United States in 1969 after her father died, when she was just out of high school, and with just \$200 in her pocket. At first, she wanted to be a cancer researcher, but her focus soon turned to immunology and she received a government scholarship. After she received her Ph.D., she went to work at the National Institutes of Health. USDA successfully recruited her in 1984, and she has been at ARS ever since. The government's investment in her has paid enormous dividends.

These are just a few of the Nation's talented, creative, dedicated, and hard-working Federal employees. I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in congratulating them on their successes and thanking them for their public service. We are a strong and prosperous Nation, in part, because of our Federal workforce. We cannot take it for granted.●

REMEMBERING BILL GALLAGHER

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, William "Bill" Gallagher Jr., was an incredible father, teacher, farmer, husband, and public servant who was called home on May 22 at the age of 55. I am also honored to have also called him a friend.

Bill earned his bachelor's degree from Western Montana College, which led him to Plains, MT as the high school's new history teacher. He later moved to Polson, where he worked in the insurance business. His career then led him to Helena, where he learned how to farm before going on to earn his law degree from the University of Montana Law School.

Bill was an accomplished attorney in Helena, but his heart for our State eventually led him to public service. As the former chairman of the Montana Public Service Commission, Bill worked tirelessly for the people of Montana. Because of his efforts, he helped Montana reacquire hydroelectric dams to bring good-paying jobs back to our State.

He has left an incredible mark on our State and will be truly missed by all who knew him. His wife Jennifer, and children David and Catrina, as well as his five grandchildren, are in my thoughts and prayers.●

CONGRATULATING LIEUTENANT COLONEL KEVIN KNUF

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today, I wish to congratulate Lt. Col. Kevin