share just one of these stories to increase awareness around this devastating disease. Gary Leingang was diagnosed with glioblastoma, an aggressive form of brain cancer, in June 2008. At the same time Gary was fighting his cancer, his wife Mona was battling breast cancer. Gary stood by her side and took care of Mona when she was on chemo and recovered. Unfortunately, Gary's fight with brain cancer ended on March 9, 2010. Before he passed, he said he wanted to make sure something good come out of his cancer. So, in his honor, his wife and children have shared his story to advance scientific research and increase awareness within the medical community in supporting patients, their families and caregivers afflicted with brain cancer. Last year, Mona worked with Louisiana lawmakers to establish Louisiana Gray Day on May 9—Gary's birthday.

It is my hope that in recognizing May 9 we will honor Gary's legacy and all help to bring greater awareness for all those affected by brain cancer, and perhaps even prevent some brain cancer-related deaths in the future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING MYSTIC AQUARIUM

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I am proud to recognize that today, First Lady Michelle Obama presents Connecticut's Mystic Aquarium with the Institute of Museum and Library Services' National Medal for Museum and Library Services for 2014. This medal is the Nation's highest honor conferred on museums and libraries for service to their communities, and I wish to convey my deepest congratulations and admiration for Mystic Aquarium on this auspicious occasion.

Since 1973, Mystic Aquarium has showcased the wonders of the world's oceans through exhibitions, tours, classroom programs, and partnerships with scientific organizations. In addition to worldclass offerings like its diverse collection of more than 4,000 animals ranging from sea lions to penguins, the aquarium boasts New England's only beluga whale habitat, as well as an innovative exhibit that showcases underwater exploration through a partnership with famed explorer Dr. Robert Ballard.

The aquarium maintains a laudable commitment to making a difference for marine environments around the globe through research and direct involvement. The Marine Animal Rescue Program rehabilitates dozens of injured seals every year, and a penguin task force has provided similar help to African penguins in South Africa. The aquarium's extensive research includes field observations on wild belugas in the Arctic and closer to home, the aquarium enlists visitors in beach cleanup and marine animal stranding and rehabilitation programs.

What I find most meaningful about Mystic Aquarium's work, however, is its consistent focus on inspiring and serving the people of Connecticut and visitors from around the world. Of the Aquarium's 700,000 yearly visitors, one in seven is a Connecticut K-12 student, and because school budget constraints too often limit learning opportunities outside the classroom, the aquarium regularly offers complimentary admission to students and teachers from economically disadvantage communities. The aquarium's deep investment in promoting scientific and environmental understanding among students of all ages and backgrounds is similarly reflected in its innovative programming for Native American high school students and for young people with intellectual disabilities.

Having attended numerous events at Mystic Aquarium, I can personally attest to the dedication of everyone there in serving Connecticut and improving animal habitat across the world. I know how hard Dr. Stephen M. Coan, Dr. Ballard, and all of the aquarium's staff members and volunteers work to support these goals. For its legacy of community-focused education and environmental stewardship, I am proud to congratulate Mystic Aquarium on its receipt of the great honor.•

SAMUEL J. HEYMAN SERVICE TO AMERICA MEDALS FINALISTS

• Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, people often wonder why they pay taxes. Well, the short answer, former Associate Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. famously wrote in a 1927 Supreme Court decision, is that ''taxes are what we pay for civilized society,'' (Compañía General de Tabacos de Filipinas v. Collector of Internal Revenue. The longer answer is that people pay taxes for government goods and services that make their families, businesses, communities, and the United States of America stronger, safer, and more prosperous. The people who provide government goods and services are public servants.

This week is Public Service Recognition Week, an opportunity to acknowledge and thank the 21.9 million men and women who work in local, county, State, and Federal Government. Each day, these people teach our children; patrol our borders and ports; protect our food, land, air, and water; care for our veterans and senior citizens; develop treatments and cures for illness and disease; fight fires and respond to natural disasters; make our communities safer; help domestic manufacturers compete abroad; enforce our laws and administer justice; advance human understanding of the smallest particles, the vastness of the universe, and the origin of life; and promote and defend American values and ideals abroad.

The knowledge, expertise, skill, and commitment of our public sector workforce is one of America's greatest assets. No other nation can match our public workforce's professionalism and level of accomplishment. Yet, too often public servants are disparaged and denigrated. Too often public servants bear the brunt of deficit reduction. Too often, public servants are asked to do more and more with less and less. We need to strengthen and encourage our public workforce. We should always strive to make government better, more responsive, more efficient.

On May 6 I had the honor of delivering brief remarks at a breakfast organized by the Partnership for Public Service to announce the finalists for the 2014 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals. These individuals and teams have been chosen for their commitment to public service and because they have made ''a significant contribution in their field of government that is innovative, high-impact and critical for the nation,'' according to the partnership.

I would like to take a few moments to talk about the finalists. If Americans want to see their tax dollars at work, what follows are a few examples.

Call to Service Medal finalists are Federal employees whose professional achievements reflect the important contributions that a new generation brings to public service.

Jonathan Baker, Delta IV launch systems deputy chief engineer, U.S. Air Force Space & Missile Systems Center Launch Systems Directorate, El Segundo, CA saved taxpayers more than $4 billion on the purchase of 40 new rockets and led the engineering team responsible for launching 13 Air Force satellites into orbit.

Anthony Cotton, Amanda Femal, Jason Fleming, J.P. Gibbons and the Development Credit Authority Transaction Teams, Africa team leader, Cotton; Asia and Middle East team leader, Femal; Latin America/Caribbean and Eastern Europe team leader, Fleming; and Strategic Transactions team leader, Gibbons, U.S. Agency for International Development, Development Credit Authority, Washington, D.C. generated nearly $1 billion in aid for 60 projects in 42 developing countries during the past 2 years through an innovative, public-private loan guarantee program.

Sofia Hussain, senior forensic accountant, Division of Enforcement, Securities and Exchange Commission, Boston, MA, helped Federal investigators crack intricate securities fraud cases and return hundreds of millions of dollars to investors by introducing cutting-edge technology and data analysis.

Sara Meyers, director, Sandy Program Management Office, Department of Housing & Urban Development, Washington, DC, created sophisticated data analysis systems to evaluate the performance of Federal housing programs and set up processes to track $13.6 billion in economic stimulus and $50 billion for Hurricane Sandy disaster recovery;

Miguel O. Román, research physical scientist, Terrestrial Information Systems Laboratory, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD—provided timely and reliable information on wildfires, storm damage and global energy consumption to help scientists and policymakers better understand and respond to natural disasters and climate change.

This is your tax dollars at work.

Career Achievement Medal finalists are Federal employees with significant accomplishments throughout a lifetime of achievement in public service.

Scott Gerald Borg, head, Antarctic Sciences Section, Division of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation, Arlington, VA, directed a world-class research program in Antarctica that led to important scientific discoveries about climate change, the origins of the universe, previously unknown sea life, and two new dinosaur species;

Thomas Browne, Deputy Director, Office of Anticrime Programs, Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, Washington, DC, transformed drug prevention and addiction treatment programs in 70 countries around the world, providing special care and assistance to women and children;

Robert A. Canino, regional attorney, Dallas District Office Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Dallas, TX, pioneered the use of civil rights laws to try human trafficking cases when criminal enforcement and labor laws proved ineffective in defending foreign-born and intellectually disabled workers who were abused and exploited:

Edwin Kneedler, Deputy Solicitor General, Department of Justice, Washington, DC, argued 125 cases and helped shape the Federal Government's legal position on hundreds more before the Supreme Court, while setting a high standard for integrity and protecting the long term interests of the United States;

E. Ramona Trovato, Associate Assistant Administrator, Office of Research and Development, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC, helped transform national environmental health policy by focusing attention on the impact of pollutants on children, and by devising strategies to respond to biological, chemical and radiological contamination from a terrorist attack;

This is your tax dollars at work.

Citizen Services Medal finalists are Federal employees who have made a significant contribution to the Nation in activities related to citizen services, including economic development, education, health care, housing, labor and transportation.

Michael Byrne, former geographic information officer, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC, put detailed data about our Nation's broadband availability and communications systems in the hands of citizens and policymakers through the use of interactive online maps and other visualizations.

Marcia Crosse, Director, Health Care, Government Accountability Office, Washington, DC, directed congressional attention and prompted reforms to the Food and Drug Administration's global role in the regulation of drugs and medical devices to help the agency better protect public health.

James D. Green, project officer, Division of Safety Research, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Morgantown, WV, collaborated with the ambulance manufacturing industry and multiple Federal agencies to create ambulance crash standards to help reduce injuries and fatalities among EMS workers and patients;

Douglas James Norton, senior environmental scientist, Watershed Branch, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC, engaged citizens, scientists, and State agencies in protecting their local streams, lakes, and rivers by providing access to water quality data and assessment tools via the Web;

Günter Waibel, Adam Metallo, and Vincent Rossi, Director, Digitization Program Office, Waibel, and 3D program officers, Metallo and Rossi, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, made iconic treasures from the Smithsonian's vast collection accessible to students, teachers, historians, and curious visitors everywhere through the use of computerized 3D imaging and printing technologies.

This is your tax dollars at work.

Homeland Security and Law Enforcement Medal finalists are Federal employees who have made 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.

Omar Pérez Aybar, Reginald J. France, and the Miami HEAT teams, assistant special agents in charge, Miami Regional Office, Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, Miami Lakes, FL, led hundreds of Medicare fraud investigations that have resulted in more than 600 convictions in South Florida, recovering hundreds of millions of dollars and providing an investigative ''roadmap'' for other jurisdictions to follow.

Susan M. Hanson, senior resident agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Dothan, AL, brought to justice four prison guards who brutally beat and murdered an inmate, and exposed a culture of abuse in Alabama prisons.

Anthony Regalbuto, Chief, Office of International and Domestic Port Security, U.S. Coast Guard, Washington, DC, assessed the vulnerabilities of hundreds of marine facilities and created comprehensive security plans for domestic and international shipping ports to guard against terrorist attacks.

Gilbert Bindewald, Alice A. Lippert, and Patrick Willging, program manager, Advanced Grid Modeling Research, Bindewald; senior technical advisor, Energy Infrastructure Modeling and Analysis, Lippert; senior logistics specialist, Willging, Department of Energy, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, Bindewald and Lippert; Office of Petroleum Reserve, Willging, Washington, DC, helped government authorities and power companies deliver emergency services and restore electricity following widespread natural disasters by creating critical information sharing and assessment tools.

This is your tax dollars at work.

Management Excellence Medal finalists are Federal employees demonstrating superior leadership and management excellence through a significant contribution to the Nation that exemplifies efficient, effective, and results-oriented government.

Sonny Hashmi, Acting Chief Information Officer, General Services Administration, Washington, DC, led the General Services Administration's ''Cloud Initiative,'' improving employee effectiveness, reducing agency costs, and creating a model for other Federal agencies to follow.

Alan J. Lindenmoyer, program manager, Commercial Crew and Cargo Program, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX, transformed NASA's space travel programs, helping the United States continue important space research while reducing taxpayer costs and stimulating the commercial space industry.

Marion Mollegen McFadden and the Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force staff, senior attorney for disaster recovery, Department of Housing and Urban Development Washington, DC, in the months following Hurricane Sandy, coordinated efforts of numerous Federal agencies to help rebuild stronger and safer communities.

Ronald E. Walters, Acting Principal Deputy Undersecretary for Memorial Affairs; Department of Veterans Affairs Washington, DC, honored our Nation's veterans by delivering the pinnacle of care and service at their final resting place, while increasing availability and access to burial sites throughout the country.

This is your tax dollars at work.

National Security and International Affairs Medal finalists are Federal employees who have made significant contributions to the Nation in activities related to national security and international affairs, including defense, military affairs, diplomacy, foreign assistance and trade.

Jill Boezwinkle, senior program manager, Development Innovation Ventures, U.S. Agency for International Development, Washington, DC, guided a U.S. initiative to provide safe drinking water to 5 million people in Kenya

and Uganda, saving lives and preventing illnesses for thousands of individuals.

R. Patrick DeGroodt, deputy product manager, Department of the Army, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Aberdeen, MD, helped America's war fighters achieve mission success and stay out of harm's way by developing and deploying a new mobile communications network that gives Army units continuous connectivity on the battlefield.

Jonathan Gandomi, former field representative for the counter-Lord's Resistance Army mission, Department of State, Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations Washington, DC, coordinated U.S. efforts to end the atrocities of the Lord's Resistance Army, one of Africa's oldest and most brutal extremist groups, and help victims overcome decades of violence.

Dr. Rana A. Hajjeh and the Hib Initiative Team, Director, Division of Bacterial Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA, led a global campaign to convince some of the world's poorest countries to use a vaccine to fight bacterial meningitis and pneumonia, an initiative that is estimated to save the lives of 7 million children by 2020.

Sean C. Young and Benjamin J. Tran, electronics engineers, Air Force Research Laboratory, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, OH saved U.S. soldiers' lives in Afghanistan by creating and deploying a new aerial sensor system to help Army and Special Forces units detect and destroy deadly improvised explosive devices.

This is your tax dollars at work.

Science and Environment Medal finalists are Federal employees who have made significant contributions to the Nation in activities related to science and environment, including biomedicine, economics, energy, information technology, meteorology, resource conservation, and space.

William A. Bauman, M.D. and Ann M. Spungen, Ph.D., Director, Bauman, and Associate Director, Spungen, National Center of Excellence for the Medical Consequences of Spinal Cord Injury, Department of Veterans Affairs, James J. Peters VA Medical Center Bronx, NY, greatly improved the health care and the quality of life of paralyzed veterans by developing new ways to treat long-overlooked medical problems.

William Charmley and James Tamm, Division Director, Assessment and Standards Division, Charmley, and Chief, Fuel Economy Division, Tamm, Environmental Protection Agency, Charmley; National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Tamm, Ann Arbor, MI, Charmley; Washington, DC, Tamm, led an interagency team that developed standards for cars and light trucks that will double fuel economy by 2025 and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 6 billion metric tons;

John Cymbalsky, program manager, Appliance and Equipment Standards, Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Washington, D.C., brought together industry and environmental groups to adopt new efficiency standards for appliances and commercial equipment that will save consumers money and reduce energy consumption and air pollution.

Richard Rast, senior engineer, Air Force Research Laboratory, Kirtland Air Force Base, Albuquerque, NM, developed a new, low-cost method of locating and tracking space debris that could severely damage or destroy spacecraft and vital communications, navigation, and weather satellites.

Jeffrey Rogers, program manager, Ret., Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, Arlington, VA, created a wearable sensor that provides real-time information on the risk of traumatic brain injuries to soldiers exposed to bomb blasts, resulting in quicker medical treatment and uncovering previously undiagnosed injuries.

This is your tax dollars at work.

The individuals I have just named are the best of the best. But they would be the first to acknowledge that they stand on the shoulders of many colleagues. Yet these men and women who have done so much in service to the American people have endured pay freezes, furloughs, benefit cuts, a government shutdown, and shrinking budgets. The Service to America Medals finalists—and countless other dedicated public servants across our country—strive to serve their fellow citizens every day. They remind us why we pay taxes. It is important that we pause to reflect on their contributions, celebrate their successes, and give thanks for their service and their devotion to helping create and sustain a civilized society.●

SMITH-LEVER ACT CENTENNIAL

● Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I wish to mark the centennial of the enactment of the Smith-Lever Act.

The Smith-Lever Act established the Cooperative Extension Service, a vital nationwide system of educational partnerships that brings together Federal, State and local governments and land-grant universities.

This network is administered by The Pennsylvania State University in all 67 counties of Pennsylvania.

Access to the Cooperative Extension Program provides valuable information, resources and educational programs to communities on a broad range of issues.

As agriculture is Pennsylvania's No. 1 industry, this program continues to serve as a valuable resource for agricultural producers, small business owners, students, consumers, and communities of all sizes.

The Cooperative Extension Program helps to maintain and support the agricultural industry, while utilizing innovative research and technologies to advance the future of the industry.

I ask the Senate to join me in honoring the 100th anniversary of the Smith-Lever Act.●

CONGRATULATING STEVE AND CAROLYN COBURN

● Mr. HELLER. Madam President, I wish to recognize Nevada's own Steve and Carolyn Coburn for their recent victory at the 139th Kentucky Derby with their co-owned horse, California Chrome. California Chrome was the victor by 1¾ lengths, and as a fellow horse owner, it gave me great pride to watch a Nevadan-owned horse win this coveted title.

Steve Coburn, an Army veteran, and Carolyn Coburn are both Douglas County residents who took a chance 5 years ago when they became part-owners in California Chrome's mother, Love the Chase, as an investment opportunity. Although Love the Chase failed as a thoroughbred in the eyes of the industry, the Coburns and other co-owners decided to breed her, resulting in California Chrome, the humble-beginnings horse who turned out to be a champion.

California Chrome does not only win races, but he has become an integral member of the Coburn family. Every few weeks, the Coburn's made the drive from their rural Nevada home to watch their foal grow into a champion and never had a doubt that he was special. His track record of 10 career starts and 6 first-place finishes proves their predictions right.

As a fellow horse enthusiast, I appreciate the unique roles horses play as companion animals, as well as an important part of the commercial horse racing industry. I know the citizens of the ''Silver State'' are proud to see humble Nevadans succeed in making their dream of having a winning horse come true. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Steve and Carolyn for this unparalleled victory and wish California Chrome the best in his future racing endeavors.●

EMMET COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big