



Since the founding of our great country, public servants have worked to ensure that our government is the best in the world. Public services facilitate the general public's way of life. In reality, the idea of public service has been around since the time of emperors.

**Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW)** honors the vital contributions of public servants working across federal, state, local, and tribal governments. These individuals are essential to the functioning of American society, performing roles from maintaining transportation and infrastructure to safeguarding public health, educating children, and caring for veterans. Their commitment often comes with lower pay compared to the private sector, yet their work ensures communities thrive and government services persist.

Public servants create a tangible connection between government and citizens, embodying the values that unite the nation. They consistently address complex societal challenges, demonstrating resilience and dedication, especially during crises like COVID-19 and the on-going vast changes within the federal government. Despite facing increasing difficulties—including mass layoffs, agency closures, funding shortages, and attacks on the integrity of the civil service—they continue to serve with distinction. At the same time, state and local governments are struggling to fill funding gaps with shrinking resources.

The 26 **PSRW** will be celebrated Sunday, May 3 through Saturday, May 9. During this year's **PSRW**, as your Region III Vice President, I express my deep appreciation for these dedicated individuals, encouraging everyone to celebrate their indispensable work. Public service is recognized as a "*noble calling*," and those who answer it are valued and respected for their unwavering commitment to the nation.

*Lynn T. Harper*

**Region III Vice President**