

# The Forward Eagle

News, Reviews & Elisions  
Of Mutual Interest  
Compiled Weekly by Tim Forward  
for  
The Riverdale Senior Services Center  
Bronx, NY

June 23, 2025

Vol III Number 22

Page 1 of 1

## Current events

### Federal Employee of the Year Honored

These are difficult times to be a nonpartisan federal employee. The administration has cast the civil servant as an impediment to making America great again, and has forced out 250,000 federal workers<sup>1</sup> from the executive branch of the U.S. government.

For the first time in the two-decade history of the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Awards, the federal employee of the year – the top honor – was no longer a federal employee.

David Lebryk, a former Treasury Department official, was forced out of his career position for refusing to grant Elon Musk and the Department of Government Efficiency what Lebryk considered unlawful access to the government’s payment system.

In accepting his award on June 17th Mr. Lebryk noted that “most of my career was spent trying to be unnoticed.” He referred to the circumstances that led to his recent resignation and offered his credo for a career in public service.

“It is important to exercise principled leadership, make difficult decisions, have the courage and conviction to stand behind those decisions and be accountable and ultimately prepared to accept the consequences of those decisions,” Lebryk told his audience..

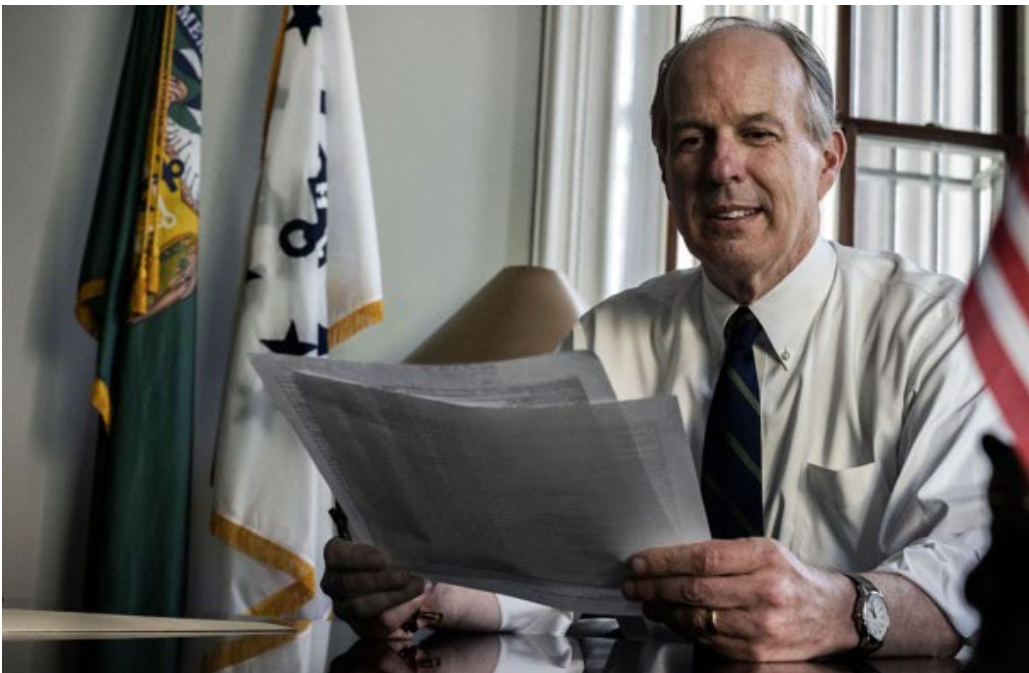
This year’s event also serves as “a reminder of what we are losing,” said Max Stier, chief executive of the Partnership for Public Service, the non-profit group that promotes an effective federal work force and sponsors the awards.

The ceremony was moved this year from the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts to the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg Center.

The Sammys, as they are called, are named for Samuel J. Heyman, a former assistant U.S. attorney and a financier who founded the Partnership for Public Service in 2001. This year, 23 other honorees were chosen along with Mr. Lebryk from among 350 nominees employed at 65 federal agencies.

Mr. Lebryk was introduced by Timothy R. Geithner, and Janet Yellen, two of the 11 former Treasury secretaries he served.

Lebryk oversaw the Bureau of the Fiscal Service, which collects revenue and disburses \$6 trillion a year in government payments on behalf of government agencies. He was honored for carrying out a law that improved transparency in government tax collection and spending; for delivering 480 million stimulus payments during the pandemic; and for his use of a fraud detection program that last



David Lebryk - 2024

year clawed back \$7 billion in improper payments.

Mr. Lebryk grew up in a single parent household in Indiana, and attended college with the help of a federal education grant. “The federal government has made a significant difference in my life,” he said.

The night before the awards, he addressed a group of incoming federal interns, and encouraged them to pursue careers in public service.

Eventually, he said, “things will break,” and the administration “will have to turn to people who know how to fix things.” He said that he tells his government colleagues to “take care of yourself, and take the long view. Your skills are going to be needed in the future.”

In preparation for Tuesday’s program, he dug through photos documenting his 35 years in government. “I’ve been to Fort Knox, and sat on the gold bars there. I helped Albania set up a ministry of finance after communism’s fall. I walked with George and Barbara Bush in the halls of Versailles,” he said.

“There is no career I ever could have had that would have given me these experiences and these opportunities,” he added. “I feel so lucky.”

## Word of the week

### heteronomy

noun

(,hetəˈranəmi)

1. The condition of being under the domination of an outside authority, either human or divine. *The passage from Arab spring to Arab winter should be understood first as a narrative of self-determination, choice, and consequences, not as a story of heteronomy and external imposition.*

### autonomy

noun

(ɔʊtənəmi)

1. The control or government of a country, organization, or group by itself rather than by others. *Activists stepped up their demands for local autonomy last month.*
2. The ability to make your own decisions about what to do rather than being influenced by someone else or told what to do. *Each of the area managers enjoys considerable autonomy in the running of his or her own area.*

## The Forward Eagle

is published weekly by the Column Press Co., NYC.  
Tim Forward Editor

This paper is offered as a review of recent topics taken up by the current events discussion group at Riverdale Senior Services Center.

Please join us at the Center for Ageless Living, 2600 Netherland Avenue, Bronx, NY each Monday at 1:00 o’clock in the afternoon for Current Events with Tim.

This week’s article was excerpted and edited from *The New York Times* and *census.gov*

Estimated 2023 US Private & Public Sector Employees	(in millions)	
US Government Employees	2.00	5%
US Government Contract Employees	3.70	9%
US Government Grant Employees	1.60	4%
US Military (Active)	1.30	3%
US Military Reserves (Inactive)	0.76	2%
US Military Civilian Employees	0.73	2%
US Postal Service Employees	0.49	1%
State Government Employees	5.20	13%
State Government Contract Employees	2.50	6%
Local & County Gov. Employees	14.20	36%
Local & County Gov. Contract Employees	7.00	18%
Total US Public Sector Employees	39.48	100%
<sup>1</sup> US Gov. Employees Who Left Service in 2025	0.25	0.6%
Total US Private Sector Employees	136.00	78%
Total US Public Sector Employees	39.48	22%
Total	175.48	100%
<sup>1</sup> US Gov. Employees Who Left Service in 2025	0.25	0.14%

Estimates by The Forward Eagle 2025