



The following list of little-known facts about contributions of public employees serves to highlight the importance of our contributions as public employees.

Did You Know ... ?

- The first person to set foot on the moon, Neil Armstrong, was a public employee.
- The “Do Not Call” list was created and implemented by a team of government employees.
- Most children in America are educated by public school teachers.
- The National Institutes of Health began as a one-room laboratory working to prevent the spread of cholera, yellow fever, and other epidemics.
- Defense Department researchers developed the networking system that led to the creation of the Internet.
- Government employees advanced both radar and sonar.
- More than two million public employees protect our nation through service in our armed forces.
- In their search to unlock the mysteries of the universe, NASA scientists discovered the first Black Hole.
- Since 1960, nearly 200,000 people have served as Peace Corps volunteers in 139 countries.
- A career government scientist created the instrument landing systems used by all commercial and military aircrafts.
- Half of all U.S. medical doctors in practice today received training by government employees working for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- A scientist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration created a deep-ocean tsunami detection system.
- Government employees developed instrument landing systems used by all commercial and military aircraft, as well as the basic design of most aircrafts.
- The CAT scan, which helps physicians diagnose cancer brain disorders and other diseases, was invented by a public servant.
- A lawyer at the U.S. Department of Justice coordinated the largest Clean Air Act enforcement actions ever, which will result in the reduction of harmful air pollutants by nearly 2 million tons each year.
- U.S. Department of Agriculture employee pioneered the bar code scanner that automatically computes the cost of your purchases at the store.
- NASA space technology launched tens of thousands of products, including cordless construction tools, heat cradles for premature infants, smoke detectors, low-cost waste water treatment, radiology, and an underwater device used to locate the “black box” from airplane crashes.
- The Department of Defense developed GPS technology.
- There are fewer than half as many United States post offices today than there were in 1900 due to the improvement of service and high-speed travel.

For more information about Public Service Recognition Week, visit PSRW.org.