

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3283

To award a congressional gold medal to Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow, in recognition of his especially meritorious role as a warrior of the Crow Tribe, Army Soldier in World War II, tribal historian, and author.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 17, 2008

Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. ENZI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

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## A BILL

To award a congressional gold medal to Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow, in recognition of his especially meritorious role as a warrior of the Crow Tribe, Army Soldier in World War II, tribal historian, and author.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Dr. Joseph Medicine  
5 Crow Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1           (1) born November 27, 1913, near Lodge Grass  
2           on the Crow Indian Reservation, Dr. Joseph Medi-  
3           cine Crow is the oldest living Crow Indian veteran;

4           (2) Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow is recognized as  
5           a warrior by his tribe for completing all 4 actions of  
6           counting coup while serving in the United States  
7           Armed Services during World War II in Germany,  
8           France, and Italy;

9           (3) he earned his first coup by leading a war  
10          party, a detail of soldiers, under fire, to retrieve dy-  
11          namite to use for attacking German guns;

12          (4) he earned his second and third coups by  
13          touching the first fallen enemy and stealing his  
14          weapon, and when he met a German soldier on a  
15          street in France, Dr. Medicine Crow knocked down  
16          the soldier and kicked his rifle away;

17          (5) he earned his fourth coup by entering an  
18          enemy camp and stealing their horses by sneaking  
19          into a farm where German SS officers were holed up  
20          for the night, stealthily entering a barn and corral,  
21          mounting a horse and, with a Crow war cry, running  
22          the horses toward the Americans as “the fireworks  
23          started” behind him and soldiers started shooting;

1           (6) upon returning from World War II, Dr. Jo-  
2        seph Medicine Crow was the first member of the  
3        Crow Tribe to earn a master’s degree;

4           (7) Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow has since re-  
5        ceived 3 honorary PhDs, from the University of  
6        Southern California, University of Montana, and  
7        Rocky Mountain College;

8           (8) Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow has lectured  
9        throughout the world on topics such as his masters  
10       thesis, “The Effects of European Culture Contact  
11       Upon the Economic, Social, and Religious Life of  
12       the Crow Indians”;

13          (9) Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow has been a long-  
14       time teacher at Little Big Horn College in Crow  
15       Agency, Montana;

16          (10) Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow is a noted trib-  
17       al historian and has authored several books on Crow  
18       culture, including “Handbook on Crow Indian Trea-  
19       ties & Laws”, “Medicine Crow, a Crow Chief”,  
20       “From the Heart of the Crow Country”, “Whiteman  
21       Runs Him, Custer’s Last Scout”, and “Counting  
22       Coups—Becoming a Crow Chief on the Reservation  
23       and Beyond”;

1           (11) Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow was appointed  
2           tribal historian and anthropologist by the Crow  
3           Tribal Council in 1948;

4           (12) Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow is a renowned  
5           figure who is included in narratives of the West in  
6           major museums around the world;

7           (13) Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow was awarded  
8           the Montana Historical Society Trustees' award for  
9           contributions to Montana history in 1992;

10          (14) Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow was awarded  
11          the Jeff Dykes Memorial Award for Notable Con-  
12          tributions to Western Affairs by the Potomac Corral  
13          of the Westerners in 2000;

14          (15) Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow was awarded  
15          the Montana Governor's Tourism Award in 2005;

16          (16) on June 25, 2008, near the Tomb of the  
17          Unknown Soldier at the Custer Battlefield Museum  
18          in Garryowen, Montana, Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow  
19          will be awarded the French Legion of Honor Cheva-  
20          lier medal and the Bronze Star for his service in the  
21          United States Army during World War II;

22          (17) Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow has been nomi-  
23          nated for the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the  
24          Nation's highest civil award, reserved for contribu-

1 tions to the country’s culture, history, and security;  
2 and

3 (18) Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow has proven  
4 himself to be a highly accomplished role model by—

5 (A) serving the Crow Tribe and the United  
6 States with valor and heroism in World War II;

7 (B) successfully integrating his past; and

8 (C) educating others about his cultural  
9 heritage.

10 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

11 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of  
12 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-  
13 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements  
14 for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold  
15 medal of appropriate design in commemoration of Dr. Jo-  
16 seph Medicine Crow, in recognition of his especially meri-  
17 torious role as a warrior of the Crow Tribe, Army Soldier  
18 in World War II, tribal historian, and author.

19 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the  
20 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary  
21 of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the  
22 “Secretary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-  
23 blems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the  
24 Secretary.

1 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

2 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in  
 3 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3,  
 4 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at  
 5 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,  
 6 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses,  
 7 and the cost of the gold medal.

8 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

9 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-  
 10 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter  
 11 51 of title 31, United States Code.

12 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section  
 13 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck  
 14 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

15 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**  
 16 **SALE.**

17 (a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There  
 18 are authorized to be charged against the United States  
 19 Mint Public Enterprise Fund, such amounts as may be  
 20 necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck pursu-  
 21 ant to this Act.

22 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the  
 23 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section  
 24 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public  
 25 Enterprise Fund.