

Name	Affiliation	Location
Professor Daniel Merton Wegner	Harvard University	Massachusetts
Professor Barbara Weinstein	New York University	New York
Mr. Miles D. White	Abbott	Illinois
Professor Henry S. White, Jr.	University of Utah	Utah
Dr. Marvin Pete Wickens	University of Wisconsin-Madison	Wisconsin
Professor Avi Wigderson	Institute for Advanced Study	New Jersey
Mr. Robert Wilson	Watermill Center/The Byrd Hoffman Watermill Foundation	New York
Professor Hisashi Yamamoto	University of Chicago	Illinois
Professor Stephen Campbell Yeazell	University of California, Los Angeles School of Law	California
Dr. Shigeyuki Yokoyama	Riken Systems and Structural Biology Center	Japan
Professor Yuk Ling Yung	California Institute of Technology	California
Professor James C. Zachos	University of California, Santa Cruz	California
Professor Shoucheng Zhang	Stanford University	California
Professor Shou-Wu Zhang	Columbia University	New Jersey

TRIBUTE TO DR. ALFONSO BATRES

• Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment today to recognize Dr. Alfonso Batres with the Department of Veterans Affairs for his dedicated service to our Nation's veterans. Dr. Batres is a Vietnam veteran who now serves as the chief officer for Readjustment Counseling Service, where he has devoted his career to building a national network of community-based vet centers. At these vet centers, veterans can obtain counseling, job assistance, and medical referrals, in addition to other services.

Dr. Batres was recently awarded a 2011 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal from the Partnership for Public Service. The award, also known as a "Sammy," is awarded annually to exceptional Federal employees. Specifically, Dr. Batres was awarded the 2011 Career Achievement Medal, which recognizes a Federal employee for significant accomplishments throughout a lifetime of achievement in public service.

Under Dr. Batres' leadership, the number of vet centers across the country has dramatically expanded from 200 to 300 in an effort to meet the growing needs of hundreds of thousands of combat veterans and their families. In addition, Dr. Batres created and launched 50 mobile vet centers, greatly improving the access to services available to veterans. Dr. Batres also developed the Combat Call Center, a national call-in service where combat veterans can call in to talk to another combat veteran regarding any readjustment issues they may be facing.

Dr. Batres is an especially deserving recipient of the Career Achievement Medal as he has led the Vet Center Program to provide services to a record level of veterans and their family members. As a result of Dr. Batres' efforts, over 191,000 veterans and their family members visited vet centers nearly 1.3 million times in the year 2010 alone.

Vet centers have proven so successful due to the unique services they provide, which seek to treat the whole person. At vet centers, combat veterans can receive counseling from other combat veterans who truly understand the struggles veterans face. In 2010, approximately 80 percent of vet center staff members were veterans, 60 percent were combat veterans, and ap-

proximately one third of all Vet Center staff had served in Iraq or Afghanistan.

In addition, vet centers are located in convenient locations within communities that possess a large population of underserved veterans. The programs are constantly adapting to meet the evolving needs of veterans and have strict protections in place in order to ensure maximum privacy for veterans. This is a truly revolutionary method of delivering services and Dr. Batres' vision, along with his natural propensity to foster young talent, have proven invaluable in its success.

Dr. Batres' selfless service on behalf of our Nation's veterans has greatly improved the lives of many, and I am so pleased to see his achievements recognized.●

TRIBUTE TO W. TODD GRAMS

• Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment today to recognize W. Todd Grams for his service to our Nation's veterans. Mr. Grams serves as the chief financial officer and executive in charge for the Office of Management at the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, where he has led the effort to improve the provision of benefits for our veterans through efficient financial management.

Mr. Grams was recently awarded the prestigious 2011 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Management Excellence Medal from the Partnership for Public Service. The award, also known as a "Sammy," is one of the most important annual awards provided to Federal civil servants who have made a significant contribution to our country. Mr. Grams was recognized for his leadership in integrating and streamlining VA's operations, reducing costs, and improving delivery of services to veterans.

Mr. Grams is a worthy recipient of the Management Excellence Medal. In his role as VA chief financial officer, he has demonstrated not only the courage, but also the creativity and tenacity necessary to help VA maximize value for our veterans. Along with the help of his qualified team, Mr. Grams' initial push for an in-depth analysis of VA's financial management priorities allowed VA to serve veterans with higher quality service and care. He redirected resources to lower the cost and risk for investment for VA. Furthermore, Mr. Grams integrated the

management governance structure and established systems that allowed VA to spend money more wisely and improve services to veterans.

I appreciate Mr. Grams' hard work and dedication at VA, and I am so pleased that his extraordinary talents and effort have been recognized.●

TRIBUTE TO THEODORE M. DOLNEY

• Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I honor Theodore M. Dolney, a veteran of World War II and a member of this Nation's Greatest Generation.

Mr. Dolney, on behalf of all Montanans and all Americans, I stand to say "thank you" for your service to this Nation.

I am proud to share Mr. Dolney's story of heroism, because like so many others, it is a story that should never be forgotten.

Ted Dolney joined the Army in April of 1941, after spending the first 19 years of his life growing up on his family farm in Glenville, SD. After training, the Army sent Mr. Dolney to northern Africa. In February of 1943, German troops captured him and took him as a prisoner of war.

Mr. Dolney spent 27 months more than 2 years of his life imprisoned by Nazis. Mr. Dolney was moved from place to place in Germany. Conditions were cruel and brutal. Food was scarce. In fact, Mr. Dolney says many American POWs would have died if it had not been for supplemental food packages sent by the Red Cross.

Because Mr. Dolney knew how to speak German, and because he had the strength to work as a POW on railroads, he sometimes got extra food.

On the eve of the invasion of Normandy, some of the prisoners smuggled in a radio. Hours later, they heard news of the allies landing in France.

Months later, when Germany lost the war, the Nazi guards simply ran away. Mr. Dolney and the others left on foot to find help. After walking several days, they finally encountered American soldiers. And they were sent home as heroes.

Ted Dolney returned to the United States. He moved to Montana where he met Darlene, his wife of 50 years. He worked for three decades as a lineman for the Rural Electrification Administration.

But Mr. Dolney never received recognition for his service and sacrifice as