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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chief Joe Medicine Crow, 94-year-old Crow Tribal Historian, recipient of three PhDs and World War II hero, has been nominated for the prestigious Congressional Gold Medal by Montana Senators Jon Tester and Max Baucus and Wyoming's Senator Michael Enzi.

The award, which has only been issued to 176 recipients in our nation's history, is the subject of a bill introduced in the U.S. Senate, recommending the award and outlining the reasons for the nomination.

Senator Tester, in submitting the bill on behalf of himself and the other two Senators, cites Dr. Medicine Crow's war record, which led to his designation as a War Chief of the Crow tribe. These "war deeds," or "coups" include the following:

- Leading a war party (his army unit) under fire, to retrieve dynamite needed to defend against a German artillery unit.**
- Touching a fallen enemy and stealing his weapon**
- Stealing horses from German SS officers who were holed-up on a farm. He is most likely the only American soldier to have performed this feat in WWII.**

Aside from his military service, Medicine Crow has attained many other honors. He was the first Crow to earn a Master's Degree and has been awarded three honorary PhDs, one from the University of Southern California, his alma mater, and one each from the University of Montana and Rocky Mountain College. These degrees were bestowed upon him for his efforts at preserving and retelling Crow Tribal history in the several books he has written, which include, "Handbook on Crow Indian Treaties and Laws," "Medicine Crow, a Crow Chief," "From the Heart of Crow Country," and his children's book, "Counting Coup-Becoming a Crow Chief on the Reservation and Beyond."

Most recently, on June 25, 2008, Chief Medicine Crow was presented with France's highest civilian honor, The French Medal of Honor, for his outstanding service to that country during his service there in World War II. That same date, he was awarded the long-overdue Bronze Star from the U.S. Army, also for his valor and heroism in the war.

Medicine Crow's knowledge and zeal for retelling the history of the Crow Nation comes partly from his being the grandson of White Man Runs Him, George Custer's last Crow scout. Medicine Crow learned the story of "Custer's Last

Stand” from his grandfather and others who witnessed the events up to and following the world-famous battle. He is the last living person to have heard these stories first-hand from a participant at The Battle of the Little Bighorn.

Chief Medicine Crow has also been nominated for the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which can only be given by the President of the United States and whose recipients are rare, indeed.

Medicine Crow was also named Tourism Person of the Year in 2004 at the Governor’s Conference on Tourism. Only one person per year is given this award and it is based upon one’s contributions to encouraging tourism in Montana.

Other awards he has received include the 1992 Montana Historical Society Trustees’ Award for his contributions to Montana history and the Jeff Dykes Memorial Award for Notable Contributions to Western Affairs, by the Potomac Corral of the Westerners in 2000.

For more information on the award, contact Senator Jon Tester’s Office

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