

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DR. JOSEPH MEDICINE CROW TO RECEIVE THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

(GARRYOWEN, MT) In a ceremony to be held at the White House on August 12, 2009, President Barack Obama will present Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Established by President Harry Truman in 1945 to honor civilian service during World War II, the Presidential Medal of Freedom is the highest civilian award in the United States. It recognizes those individuals who have made "an especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, cultural, or other significant public or private endeavors."

Dr. Medicine Crow's published works on Native American history and reservation culture are highly influential, but he is probably best known for his writings and lectures concerning the Battle of Little Big Horn. Dr. Medicine Crow has also received the Bronze Star, is a Knight of the French Legion of Honor, and has been nominated for the Congressional Gold Medal. Dr. Medicine Crow will be recognized for his many cultural, historical, and personal contributions to the worlds of anthropology and literature, and to the Crow Tribe.

Approaching his 97th birthday, he remains an active writer and lecturer. He is a frequent guest speaker at Little Bighorn College, the Custer Battlefield Museum, and the Little Bighorn

Battlefield National Monument. Dr. Medicine Crow has appeared in several documentaries about the Battle of the Little Big Horn. A noted author, his many books include *Counting Coup* and *From the Heart of Crow Country*. He also authored a children's book entitled *Brave Wolf and the Thunderbird*.

Dr. Medicine Crow received a master's degree in Anthropology from the University of Southern California (USC) in 1939. He holds two honorary doctorate degrees, one from Rocky Mountain College in 1999, and the second from the University of Southern California (USC) in 2003. Dr. Medicine Crow serves on the board of directors for the Buffalo Bill Historical Center Plains Indian Museum in Cody, Wyoming, and the Custer Battlefield Museum in Garryowen, Montana.

For additional information about Dr. Medicine Crow or the award ceremony, please contact Christopher Kortlander at the Custer Battlefield Museum, at (406) 638-2020 or chris@custermuseum.org.

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