

said, "Go back while you still can." The stories Mosher wanted to tell were rich and ready and far from Hollywood and Vine. "I cut myself off from all my material before I understood it well enough to write about it," Mosher said. They headed home; Mosher to write, Phillis to teach. "We knew right away we had found a gold mine of stories," Mosher said. "And we found out nobody had written them. I couldn't believe it. It took me 15 years or so to begin to figure out how to do it."

Much of his first novel, "Disappearances," was written in the library/opera house in Derby Line, a granite and brick building that straddles the U.S.-Canada border. Mosher would place half his chair in the U.S., and half in the foreign country, when he wrote. He sometimes got such a kick from his own work, he created a disturbance. Or so the librarian thought. "I would burst into gales of laughter with each new outrageous passage," Mosher recalled. "'Mr. Mosher,' he was warned, if you can't control yourself, we will have to ask you to leave.'"

#### KEEP THE KIDS OUT OF THE MILL

Talking in hushed library tones in the dual nation reading room where he wrote *Disappearances*, Mosher said he was amusing himself during the writing of the book. "But I was also in a state of desperation," he said. "There's a degree of desperation about the writing."

Decades later, Mosher is amused by the response to "Disappearances" of Wallace Stegner, the famous novelist who lived in Greensboro. Stegner read Mosher's book to write a possible blurb for the cover.

Stegner, the story goes, didn't get too far before crumpling up the manuscript and throwing it in the fire, announcing: "This book is a hymn to irresponsibility."

"I didn't know enough to use it," Mosher said.

Mosher drove us past the place in Irasburg that would serve as a springboard for perhaps his best known story: the house where a black minister was living in the summer of 1968, when his home was shot at. The racial shooting, which came to be called the Irasburg Affair, informed Mosher's 1989 novel, "A Stranger in the Kingdom."

We visited, too, a place that will figure in the book Mosher is writing. His forthcoming novel also has a black man as a central character: Alexander Twilight, believed to be the first black person in the country to graduate from college (Middlebury, 1823).

We walked outside the wonderful stone schoolhouse, reminiscent of the Middlebury campus, Twilight designed and built on a quiet plateau in Brownington. Twilight was principal of the school, and a minister and state legislator.

"He had a dream," Mosher said of Twilight.

"There's no doubt about it."

When the Mosheres started teaching in Orleans, they were instructed by the district superintendent to "keep the kids out of the mill." The administrator was referring to the Ethan Allen furniture factory, which appears in Mosher's novels as American Heritage.

Mosher, whose first apartment was next to the mill, said he heard the words "keep the kids out of the mill; keep the kids out of the mill" rise in rhythmic chant from the plant's vents outside his window.

It is unlikely the long-ago superintendent, issuing that directive, had in mind the manner by which Mosher would fulfill the mandate. But any Kingdom kid who has found his way to Mosher's novels, is transported to a place that is true to the mill, and the river nearby, yet worlds apart and away.

#### TRIBUTE TO JACK WILLIAMS

Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Jack Williams of Boston, MA. For the past 30 years, Jack, a well-respected veteran news anchor, has hosted WBZ-TV's "Wednesday's Child", the longest-running adoptive-family-recruitment TV feature in the Nation. Since "Wednesday's Child" first aired on WBZ in 1981, Jack Williams has used the weekly news segment to tell the story of more than 1,000 special needs children who are in need of loving, safe and permanent homes. Thanks to Jack's effort, many of these children have found "forever" homes with viewers of the weekly segment.

Jack Williams has used his notoriety and public platform to provide an invaluable service that has changed the lives of so many children and their adoptive parents. "Wednesday's Child" is backed by the Endowment for Wednesday's Child, an exemplary nonprofit with very little overhead and no employees. In fact, Jack and Marcie are the sole employees of the Endowment for Wednesday's Child; they have never drawn a salary and run the foundation out of a home office.

The Endowment for "Wednesday's Child" is supported by individual and corporate donations including Wendy's Restaurants, as well as Volvo, which donates a vehicle for the "Win a Volvo, Help 'Wednesday's Children'" campaign. The endowment has raised and donated millions to worthy nonprofits that assist with special needs adoptions. Among these are the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange and group homes including the Walker Home, St. Ann's Home in Methuen and the Italian Home for Children in Jamaica Plain.

I also thank WBZ-TV for being exemplary stewards of the public airwaves in allowing Jack to use his position for such a noble cause.

On November 6, the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange, other Wednesday's Child beneficiaries and Wednesday's Child "alumni" will gather to honor Jack Williams' 30 years of service to Massachusetts' foster children in need of permanent homes. I join them in congratulating Jack and Marcie and all those who support Wednesday's Child for their hard work and generosity.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL DAVID J. BIXLER

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I honor Corporal David J. Bixler for his courage, heroism and selfless dedication to the U.S. Army and his fellow soldiers.

CPL David J. Bixler of Harrison, AR, recently received the United Service Organizations Soldier of the Year Award for distinguishing himself both on the battlefield and during his recovery

from the wounds he received from his actions during a firefight in the Arghandab River Valley of Afghanistan.

On September 30, 2010, Corporal Bixler and his platoon conducted a patrol in the volatile and dangerous region to talk with some local elders. During the mission, Corporal Bixler was assigned a small team of Afghan National Army soldiers to lead. The patrol came under heavy enemy fire forcing the unit to turn back to safety.

Corporal Bixler's following actions are heroic and inspiring. As the patrol turned around, one of the Afghan Army partners stepped outside of the cleared path and Corporal Bixler, recognizing the danger ran after the Afghan soldier. As he attempted to shove the soldier back onto the cleared path, he detonated an IED that caused extensive damage to his body. Through this courageous and selfless action, he saved the life of the Afghan soldier and the other members of his patrol. For his heroism, he was awarded the Silver Star.

Throughout his difficult recovery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Corporal Bixler has been an inspiration to those around him and to his unit that continues its service overseas.

CPL David Bixler has not only met the criteria for the Soldier of the Year Award, but eclipsed it. Words cannot express how proud I am of Corporal Bixler and his valor and bravery now how grateful I am for his service. We thank him, and all our servicemen and women, for their sacrifice and efforts on our behalf.●

#### AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today I wish to commend the American Academy of Arts and Sciences on the occasion of the institution's October 1, 2011, induction ceremony for the 231st class of members in Cambridge, MA. These 211 new members earned election to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences for extraordinary individual achievement and are among the world's most influential artists, scientists, scholars, authors, and institutional leaders. In accepting membership into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, these individuals agreed to contribute their talents, experience, and knowledge to help the academy advance the Nation's social welfare.

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences is an august, quintessentially American institution founded by Massachusetts' own John Adams and other scholar-patriots during our Nation's struggle for independence. The American Academy of Arts and Sciences is currently chaired by Louis W. Cabot and led by President Leslie C. Berlowitz and is a vital center of knowledge focused on the great challenges and concerns of the day, from science and technology policy to global security; social policy to the humanities; and culture, and education.

I won't read all 211 of the new members' names, but listed among these brilliant individuals are;

Dr. Daniel Arie Haber, the leading physician-scientist whose research has focused on the molecular genetics of human cancer. He identified genes implicated in breast cancer development and in Wilms' tumor, a children's kidney cancer.

Chester C. Langway, Jr., who is responsible for launching the era of deep ice core drilling programs. He recruited scientists from other disciplines and countries to work on ice cores and collaborated closely with them. Consequently, international teams of sci-

entists have extracted fundamental information from ice cores, and studies have provided detailed climatological and other environmental data, over a geological time period including the Holocene and late Pleistocene ages, on the regional and global conditions existing at the time of snow deposit. Results reveal man's impact on the changing environment and long-term evidence regarding abrupt global climate changes and led to discovery of the Dansgaard-Oeschger event.

Dr. W. Jason Morgan, who was the first to propose that Earth's surface is made up of a number of rigid crustal blocks, establishing the kinematic

framework for the paradigm of plate tectonics, which revolutionized the study of Earth and its history.

Also included in this group is Robert Kraft, who is probably best known as the owner of our beloved New England Patriots but has also dedicated his life to advancing science, philanthropy, the arts, and education.

I am including for the RECORD the names of all 211 inductees into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. I wish them all the best and thank them for their contribution to the knowledge of our Nation.

The information follows:

#### THE 231ST CLASS OF MEMBERS, AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Name	Affiliation	Location
Dr. Richard Warren Aldrich	University of Texas at Austin	Texas
Mr. Paul Gardner Allen	Vulcan, Inc.	Washington
Dr. Victor Ambros	University of Massachusetts Medical School	Massachusetts
Professor Luc E. Anselin	Arizona State University	Arizona
Professor Frances Hamilton Arnold	California Institute of Technology	California
Dr. Wanda M. Austin	Aerospace Corporation	California
Mr. Jesse Huntley Ausubel	Rockefeller University/Alfred P. Sloan Foundation	New York
Professor Thomas Banks	University of California, Santa Cruz/Rutgers, State University of NJ	California
Professor John Andrew Bargh	Yale University	Connecticut
Professor Mary Beard	University of Cambridge	United Kingdom
Dr. Anna Katherine Behrensmeyer	Smithsonian Institution	Virginia
Professor Roland J.M. Benabou	Princeton University	New Jersey
The Honorable Douglas Joseph Bennet, Jr.	Wesleyan University	Connecticut
Professor Marsha J. Berger	Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, New York University	New York
Professor Timothy J. Besley	London School of Economics and Political Science	United Kingdom
Dr. Clara Derber Bloomfield	Ohio State University	Ohio
Professor Philip V. Bohlman	University of Chicago	Illinois
Mr. Yves Bonnefoy	Paris, France	France
Dr. Melissa Foster Bowerman	Max-Planck-Institut für Psycholinguistik	The Netherlands
Mr. Dave Brubeck	Wilton, Connecticut	Connecticut
Dr. Anthony S. Bryk	Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching	California
Mr. John E. Bryson	Edison International	California
Mr. Kenneth L. Burns	Florentine Films	New Hampshire
Dr. R. Paul Butler	Carnegie Institution for Science	Washington, D.C.
Ms. Elizabeth J. Cabraser	Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein LLP	California
Mr. Thomas P. Campbell	Metropolitan Museum of Art	New York
Dr. James Ireland Cash, Jr.	Harvard Business School	Massachusetts
Dr. Francisco G. Cigarroa	University of Texas System	Texas
Professor Edmund Melson Clarke	Carnegie Mellon University	Pennsylvania
Professor James Clifford	University of California, Santa Cruz	California
Professor Geoffrey W. Coates	Cornell University	New York
Mr. Ernest H. Cockrell	Cockrell Interests, Inc./Cockrell Foundation	Texas
Mr. Leonard Norman Cohen	Montreal, Canada	California
Professor Timothy J. Colton	Harvard University	Massachusetts
Professor Robert K. Colwell	University of Connecticut	Connecticut
Professor David Paul Corey	Harvard Medical School/HHMI	Massachusetts
Professor Stanley A. Corngold	Princeton University	New Jersey
Professor Robert Howard Crabtree	Yale University	Connecticut
Dr. George William Crabtree	Argonne National Laboratory/University of Illinois at Chicago	Illinois
Professor Peter W. Culicover	Ohio State University	Ohio
Dr. George Q. Daley	Children's Hosp. Cancer Inst./HMS/HHMI	Massachusetts
Dr. Chi Van Dang	Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine	Maryland
Professor Marcetta York Darenbourg	Texas A&M University	Texas
Mr. Daniel Michael Blake Day-Lewis	New York, New York	New York
Professor Juan José de Pablo	University of Wisconsin-Madison	Wisconsin
Baron David de Rothschild	Rothschild Group	France
Dr. Raymond J. Deshaies	California Institute of Technology/HHMI	California
Dr. Vishva Dixit	Genentech, Inc.	California
Ambassador Edward P. Djerejian	Rice University; Djerejian Global Consultancies, LLP	Texas
Dr. John P. Donoghue	Brown University	Rhode Island
Professor Steven Neil Durlauf	University of Wisconsin-Madison	Wisconsin
Mr. Bob Dylan	Malibu, California	California
Professor Penelope Dorothy Eckert	Stanford University	California
Dr. Jonathan A. Epstein	University of Pennsylvania, Perelman School of Medicine	Pennsylvania
Professor Alex Eskin	University of Chicago	Illinois
Dr. Edward W. Felten	Princeton University	New Jersey
Dr. Russell Dawson Fernald	Stanford University	California
Professor Martha Finnemore	George Washington University	Washington, D.C.
Professor Claude S. Fischer	University of California, Berkeley	California
Professor Philip Fisher	Harvard University	Massachusetts
Professor Nancy Foner	City University of New York, Hunter College and The Graduate Center	New York
Professor Catherine S. Fowler	University of Nevada	Nevada
Professor Scott E. Fraser	California Institute of Technology	California
Dr. Joseph Francis Fraumeni, Jr.	National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health	Maryland
Professor Glenn H. Fredrickson	University of California, Santa Barbara	California
Dr. Julio Frenk	Harvard School of Public Health	Massachusetts
Professor Sarah A. Fuller	State University of New York at Stony Brook	New York
Mr. Thomas W. Gaetgens	Getty Research Institute	California
Professor Franklin I. Gamwell	University of Chicago Divinity School	Illinois
Professor Daniel E. Garber	Princeton University	New Jersey
Professor Sylvester James Gates, Jr.	University of Maryland	Maryland
Professor Sharon C. Glotzer	University of Michigan	Michigan
Professor Annette Gordon-Reed	Harvard University/HLS/Radcliffe Institute	Massachusetts
Dr. Maxwell E. Gottesman	Columbia University Medical Center	New York
Mr. Hugh Grant	Monsanto Company	Missouri
Mr. Paul Anthony Griffiths	Manorbier, United Kingdom	United Kingdom
Professor Sol Michael Gruner	Cornell University	New York
Mr. John Guare	New York, New York	New York
Mr. Robert D. Haas	Levi Strauss & Company/Levi Strauss Foundation	California
Dr. Daniel Arie Haber	Harvard Medical School/Massachusetts General Hospital/HHMI	Massachusetts
Professor Jacquelyn Dowd Hall	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	North Carolina
Reverend Ray A. Hammond	Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church	Massachusetts
Professor Martin P. Head-Gordon	University of California, Berkeley	California
Professor Jeffrey Henderson	Boston University	Massachusetts
Professor James Higginbotham	University of Southern California	California
Mr. Robert F. Higgins	Highland Capital Partners/Havard Business School	Massachusetts

## THE 231ST CLASS OF MEMBERS, AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES—Continued

Name	Affiliation	Location
Dr. Katherine Ann High	University of Pennsylvania, Perelman School of Medicine	Pennsylvania
Professor Oscar Hijuelos	Duke University	New York
Dr. Okihide Hikosaka	National Eye Institute	Maryland
Mr. Edward Hoagland	Edgartown, MA	Vermont
Dr. E. Brooks Holifield	Emory University	Georgia
Mrs. Jenny Holzer	Hoosick Falls, New York	New York
Dr. Eric Joel Horvitz	Microsoft Research	Washington
Professor Thomas Yizhao Hou	California Institute of Technology	California
Dr. Leah H. Jamieson	Purdue University	Indiana
Professor Jay H. Jasanoff	Harvard University	Massachusetts
Professor Farish Alston Jenkins, Jr.	Harvard University	Massachusetts
Mr. W. Thomas Johnson, Jr.	Cable News Network	Georgia
Mr. Alex S. Jones	Harvard Kennedy School	Massachusetts
Professor Michael I. Jordan	University of California, Berkeley	California
Professor Marcel Kahan	New York University School of Law	New York
Professor Frances Myrna Kamm	Harvard University/Harvard Kennedy School	Massachusetts
Dr. Linda P.B. Katehi	University of California, Davis	California
Professor Kazuya Kato	University of Chicago	Illinois
Professor Jonathan N. Katz	California Institute of Technology	California
Professor Thomas Forrest Kelly	Harvard University	Massachusetts
Professor J. Mark Kenoyer	University of Wisconsin-Madison	Wisconsin
Dr. Talmadge Everett King, Jr.	University of California, San Francisco	California
Dr. Robert E. Kingston	Harvard Medical School/Massachusetts General Hospital	Massachusetts
Professor Joseph Klaffer	Tel Aviv University	Israel
Dr. Steven Knapp	George Washington University	Washington, D.C.
Mr. Robert Kraft	The Kraft Group	Massachusetts
Professor David I. Laibson	Harvard University	Massachusetts
Professor Chester Charles Langway, Jr.	State University of New York at Buffalo	Massachusetts
Dr. Lewis Lee Lanier	University of California, San Francisco	California
Professor L. Gary Leal	University of California, Santa Barbara	California
Dr. Andrei Dmitriyevich Linde	Stanford University	California
Professor John A. List	University of Chicago	Illinois
Professor Beatrice Longuenesse	New York University	New York
Professor William Roger Louis	University of Texas at Austin	Texas
Mr. Morton Mandel	Parkwood Corporation/Mandel Foundation	Ohio
Professor Todd Joseph Martinez	Stanford University	California
Dr. Raghunath A. Mashelkar	Global Research Alliance; CSIR	India
Professor Mark A. Mazower	Columbia University	New York
Mr. Bill McKibben	Middlebury College	Vermont
Professor H. Jay Melosh	Purdue University	Indiana
Professor Louis Menand	The New Yorker/Harvard University	Massachusetts
Dr. Jeffrey H. Miller	University of California, Los Angeles	California
Professor Geoffrey P. Miller	New York University School of Law	New York
Dr. Chad A. Mirkin	Northwestern University	Illinois
Dame Helen Mirren	London, United Kingdom	United Kingdom
Professor Margaret M. Mitchell	University of Chicago Divinity School	Illinois
Professor Gregory Winthrop Moore	Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey	New Jersey
Dr. W. Jason Morgan	Harvard University/Princeton University	Massachusetts
Dr. Richard I. Morimoto	Northwestern University	Illinois
Dr. Ellen Mosley-Thompson	Ohio State University	Ohio
Mr. Alan Roger Mulally	Ford Motor Company	Michigan
Professor Shree K. Nayar	Columbia University	New York
Dr. William Barlow Neaves	Stowers Institute for Medical Research	Missouri
Professor Ei-ichi Negishi	Purdue University	Indiana
Professor Ann E. Nelson	University of Washington	Washington
Professor Dr. Angelika Neuirth	Freie Universität Berlin	Germany
Dr. Katherine S. Newman	Johns Hopkins University	Maryland
Professor Dr. Svante Pääbo	Max-Planck-Institut für evolutionäre Anthropologie	Germany
Dr. David Conrad Page	Massachusetts Institute of Technology/HHMI	Massachusetts
Professor Scott E. Page	University of Michigan	Michigan
Professor David G. Pearce	New York University	New York
Professor Monika Piazzesi	Stanford University	California
Professor Hugh David Politzer	California Institute of Technology	California
Professor Trevor Douglas Price	University of Chicago	Illinois
Mrs. Roberta Cooper Ramo	Modrall Sperling	New Mexico
Professor Peter B. Reich	University of Minnesota	Minnesota
Dr. Robert D. Reischauer	Urban Institute	Maryland
Professor David N. Reznick	University of California, Riverside	California
Sir Adam Roberts	British Academy/ University of Oxford	United Kingdom
Dr. Malcolm Austin Rogers	Museum of Fine Arts, Boston	Massachusetts
Professor Thomas Romer	Princeton University	New Jersey
Professor C. Brian Rose	University of Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania
Dr. Rodney J. Rothstein	Columbia University Medical Center	New York
Dr. Martine F. Roussel	St. Jude Children's Research Hospital/University of Tennessee	Tennessee
Dr. Roberta L. Rudnick	University of Maryland	Maryland
Dr. David W. Russell	University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	Texas
Professor Laurent Saloff-Coste	Cornell University	New York
Professor Larry Samuelson	Yale University	Connecticut
Professor Michael Scammell	Columbia University	New York
Professor Michael H. Schill	University of Chicago Law School	Illinois
Dr. Amita Sehgal	University of Pennsylvania, Perelman School of Medicine/HHMI	Pennsylvania
Professor Louis Michael Seidman	Georgetown University	Washington, D.C.
Dr. Sybil Putnam Seitzinger	Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences	Sweden
Dr. Patricia Griffiths Selinger	IBM Almaden Research Center	California
Professor Eric Ursell Selker	University of Oregon	Oregon
Professor James S. Shapiro	Columbia University	New York
Professor Kevan M. Shokat	University of California, San Francisco/HHMI	California
Professor Peter Williston Shor	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Massachusetts
Mr. Paul Simon	New York, New York	New York
Professor P. Adams Sitney	Princeton University	New Jersey
Dr. David J. Skorton	Cornell University	New York
Dr. Bruce David Smith	Smithsonian Institution	Virginia
Professor Eduardo E. M. Souto de Moura	Universidade do Porto/Souto Moura-Arquitectos SA	Portugal
Dr. Debora L. Spar	Barnard College	New York
Professor Gabrielle M. Spiegel	Johns Hopkins University	Maryland
Professor Charles Haines Stewart III	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Massachusetts
Professor Howard A. Stone	Princeton University	New Jersey
Dr. Gisela T. Storz	National Institutes of Health	Maryland
Professor Thomas J. Sugrue	University of Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania
Dr. Wesley I. Sundquist	University of Utah	Utah
Professor Michael K. Tanenhaus	University of Rochester	New York
Dr. Ann Taves	University of California, Santa Barbara	California
Professor Herbert F. Tucker	University of Virginia	Virginia
Professor Christopher R. Udry	Yale University	Connecticut
Ms. Luisa Valenzuela	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Argentina
Mr. Michael R. Van Valkenburgh	Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Inc., Landscape Architects P.C.	New York
Mr. J. Mario Pedro Vargas Llosa	Madrid, Spain	Spain
Professor Lothar von Falkenhausen	University of California, Los Angeles	California
Professor Brian A. Wandell	Stanford School of Medicine	California
Dr. Jean Yin Jen Wang	University of California, San Diego	California
Mr. Samuel A. Waterston	West Cornwall, Connecticut	Connecticut
Professor Sandra Robin Waxman	Northwestern University	Illinois

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