

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR



MIKE COONEY
LT. GOVERNOR

August 28, 2020

The Honorable David Bernhardt
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Bernhardt:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposed National Garden of American Heroes and the request for potential locations, statues, and recommendations of Montana heroes. Montana has an abundance of public lands and spaces as well as heroes that we cherish and are worth considering as your Task Force contemplates the National Garden.

I am aware that Yellowstone County, our state's largest county by population has put forward a thoughtful proposal that I hope will be given your full consideration. I would suggest that as you further develop selection criteria for the location and the heroes to include in the garden that you undertake a more robust consultation effort with county, tribal and local governments, as I am sure that other localities in the state may have an interest but may not be aware of the opportunity. Should Montana be chosen for the National Garden, my administration would be happy to assist with identifying further potential locations within the state, connecting you with local officials, as well as identifying any existing statues for the garden.

The Big Sky State has a long, proud history dating well before statehood of men and women who have contributed greatly to both our state and nation. To provide a comprehensive list of Montanans deserving recognition would be nearly impossible. However, I have consulted with the Montana Historical Society, and they have recommended a short list, attached, of Montana heroes who would represent our state and its values well.

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Secretary Bernhardt
August 28, 2020

While this list is by no means exhaustive, it highlights our state's heroes and the diverse contributions they have given to this great country. I would also echo other governors' concerns that the initial short turn-around time for this effort suggests that further consultation with county, tribal and local governments would produce a more comprehensive and inclusive list of Montana heroes and suitable locations for the National Garden.

Should your Task Force have further interest in Montana as the home for the National Garden of American Heroes, I would be glad to host you and show you why Montana remains the "Last Best Place." Please let me know how I can be of further assistance in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Steve Bullock', with a horizontal line above it.

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor

Gov. Bullock,

We have discussed and submit two lists for your consideration. One is of the obvious "big names" that receive a lot of recognition but cannot be ignored. The second is of the "unsung heroes" in Montana history who accomplished great things with less recognition. Those are the folks that we tend to advocate. Of course, this is all debatable and all are Montana "heroes." Refer to the "Gallery of Outstanding Montanans" for additional candidates.

<https://mhs.mt.gov/education/OutstandingMontanans>

List #1

- Jeannette Rankin
- Charles M. Russell
- Mike Mansfield
- Lee Metcalf
- Gary Cooper
- Plenty Coups
- Sacagawea

List #2, Unsung Montana Heroes

- Elouise Cobell
Blackfeet Elder, challenged U.S. for mismanagement of trust funds
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elouise_P._Cobell
- Maurice Hilleman
Vaccinologist, Miles City
<https://mhs.mt.gov/Portals/11/education/Montanans/MHilleman.pdf>
- Alma Smith Jacobs
Librarian and African-American community activist, Great Falls
<https://mhs.mt.gov/Portals/11/education/Montanans/ASJacobs.pdf>
- Joe Medicine Crow
Crow war chief, historian, author

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joe_Medicine_Crow

- **Norman "Jeff" Holter**
Scientist, Holter Heart Monitor, Helena
<https://mhs.mt.gov/Portals/11/education/Montanans/holter.pdf>
- **Susie Walking Bear Yellowtail**
Health care leader, nurse, Crow
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Susie_Walking_Bear_Yellowtail

No wrong answers. I hope this is helpful.

Bruce Whittenberg
Director
Montana Historical Society
www.montanahistoricalsociety.org



Help us celebrate the
Montana Historical Society's
first 150 years!

Elouise P. Cobell

Elouise Pepion Cobell, also known as **Yellow Bird Woman** (November 5, 1945 - October 16, 2011)^[1] (*Niitsitapi* Blackfoot Confederacy) was a tribal elder and activist, banker, rancher, and lead plaintiff in the groundbreaking class-action suit *Cobell v. Salazar* (2009). This challenged the United States' mismanagement of trust funds belonging to more than 500,000 individual Native Americans^[2] She pursued the suit from 1996, challenging the government to account for fees from resource leases.

In 2010, the government approved a \$3-4 billion settlement for the trust case. Major portions of the settlement were to partially compensate individual account holders, and to buy back fractionated land interests, and restore land to reservations. It also provided for a \$60 million scholarship fund for Native Americans and Alaskan Natives, named the Cobell Education Scholarship Fund in her honor.^[3] The settlement is the largest ever in a class action against the federal government.^[1]

Buy-back of lands has continued, restoring acreage to the tribes. As of November 2016, \$40 million had been contributed to the scholarship fund by the government, from its purchase of lands. It has paid \$900 million to buy back the equivalent of 17 million acres in fractionated land interests, restoring the land base of reservations to tribal control. ^[4]

In November 2016, Cobell's work on behalf of Native Americans was honored by the award of a posthumous Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama; her son Turk Cobell accepted the award on her behalf.^[5]

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Elouise Pepion Cobell
Yellow Bird Woman,
Elouise Pepion
(Blackfoot Confederacy) elder and
activist leader
Personal details

Born

November 5, 1945

Died

October 16, 2011
(aged 65)
Great Falls, Montana

Spouse(s)

Alvin Cobell

Relations

Eight brothers and sisters; great-granddaughter of Mountain Chief

Children

Turk Cobell

Education

Great Falls Business Colleg , Montana State University

Known for

Lead plaintiff in Cobell v. Salazar; banker, Treasurer of the Blackfeet Tribe

Biography

Elouise Pepion was born in 1945 on the Blackfeet Reservation in Montana, the middle of nine children of Polite and Catherine Pepion. She was a great-granddaughter of Mountain Chief, one of the legendary leaders of the Blackfeet Nation.^[1] She grew up on her parents' cattle ranch on the reservation. Like many reservation families, they did not have electricity or running water. Pepion attended a one-room schoolhouse until high school.^[2] She graduated from Great Falls Business College and attended Montana State University.^[6] She had to leave before graduation to care for her mother, who was dying of cancer.^[7] 1 - - - - -

After her mother's death, Elouise moved to Seattle, where she met and married Alvin Cobell, another Blackfeet living in Washington at the time.^[8] They had one son, Turk Cobell. After returning to the reservation to help her father with the family ranch, Elouise Cobell became treasurer for the Blackfeet Nation.

She founded the Blackfeet National Bank, the first national bank located on an Indian reservation and owned by a Native American tribe.^[9] In 1997, Cobell won a MacArthur genius award for her work on the bank and Native financial literacy.^[7] She donated part of that money to support her class-action suit against the federal government because of its mismanagement of trust funds and leasing fees, which she had filed in 1996. (See below: Challenging federal management of trust funds)

After twenty other tribes joined the bank to form the Native American Bank, Cobell became Executive Director of the Native American Community Development Corporation, its non-profit affiliate. The Native American Bank is based in Denver, Colorado. ^[4]

Her professional, civic experience and expertise included serving as Co-Chair of Native American Bank, NA.; a Board Member for First Interstate Bank; a Trustee of the National Museum of the American Indian; as well as a member of other boards.

Throughout her life, Cobell also helped her husband to operate their ranch, raising cattle and crops. Cobell was active in local agriculture and environmental issues. She founded the first land trust in Indian Country and served as a Trustee for the Nature Conservancy of Montana.

Challenging federal management of trust funds

While Treasurer of the Blackfeet Tribe for more than a decade, Cobell discovered many irregularities in the management of funds held in trust by the United States for the tribe and for individual Indians. These funds were derived from fees collected by the government for Indian trust lands leased for lumber, oil production, grazing, gas and minerals, etc., from which the government was supposed to pay royalties to Indian owners. Over time accounts became complicated as original trust lands were divided among descendants, and Cobell found that tribal members were not receiving their fair amount of trust funds.

Along with the Intertribal Monitoring Association (on which she served as President), Cobell attempted to seek reform in Washington, DC from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s without success. At that point she asked Dennis Gingold (renowned banking lawyer, based in Washington, DC), Thaddeus Holt, and the Native American Rights Fund (including John Echohawk and Keith Harer) to bring a class-action suit against the Department of Interior in order to force reform and an accounting of the trust funds belonging to individual Indians.

They set up the Blackfeet Reservation Development Fund, "a nonprofit created to bring claims against the United States for mismanaging lands held in trust for Native Americans.^[5] The Lannan Foundation, which "provides financial assistance to tribes and nonprofits that serve Native American communities..." has said that it gave more than \$7 million in grants to the Blackfeet fund from 1998 to 2009 to support the litigation, in the expectation that the grants would be repaid in full after settlement. In 2013, in a suit filed in Washington, the Lannan Foundation said it was still seeking payment from Gingold, the lead counsel in the case, and had received only \$1.8 million.^[8]

Settlement

The class-action suit was filed in October 1996 and is known as *Cobell v. Salazar* (Salazar was Secretary of Interior when the case was settled.) A negotiated settlement was reached in 2009 by the administration of President Barack Obama. In 2010 Congress passed a bill to appropriate \$3.4 billion for settlement of the longstanding class action suit. It had three parts: payment of individual plaintiffs included in the class action; a fund of \$1.9 billion to buy back fractionated land interest in voluntary sales, and restore land to reservations, strengthening their land base. It also provided for a \$60 million scholarship fund to be funded from the sales, named the Cobell Education Scholarship Fund in her honor.

As of July 2011, notices were being sent to the hundreds of thousands of individual Native Americans affected. Most received settlements of about \$1800, but some may receive more.^[9] As of November 2016, the government had spent about \$900 million to buy back the equivalent of 1.7 million acres in fractionated land interests, restoring the land base of reservations to tribal control. In addition, \$40 million has been added so far to the Cobell Scholarship Fund.^[g]

In 2009, when settlement was reached with the government, Cobell said:

Although we have reached a settlement totaling more than \$3-4 billion, there is little doubt this is significantly less than the full accounting to which individual Indians are entitled. Yes, we could prolong our struggle and fight longer, and perhaps one day we would know, down to the penny, how much individual Indians are owed. Perhaps we could even litigate long enough to increase the settlement amount. But we are compelled to settle now by the sobering realization that our class grows smaller each year, each month and every day, as our elders die and are forever prevented from receiving their just compensation.

Cobell died at the age of 65 on October 16, 2011, in Great Falls, Montana after a brief battle with cancer.^{[i][io]}

Cobell was the former president of Montana's Elvis Presley fan club, but left these activities to focus on her landmark lawsuit. In her honor, all car radios during her funeral procession were tuned to Elvis songs. Her family arranged to have at the viewing a pair of life-size Elvis cutouts standing against the rear wall. A photo of Cobell and her family at Graceland flashed occasionally in the rotating display on a big screen overhead. The buffet featured a giant cake, decorated with the words, "In Loving Memory of Elouise Cobell," and a picture of Elvis.^[n]

Representation in other media

- Producer and director Melinda Janko made *100 Years: One Woman's Fight for Justice* (2016), a 75-minute documentary on the life and achievements of Cobell. It was screened at the Santa Fe Independent Film Festival in October 2016.^[12]

Legacy and honors

- 1997: "Genius Grant" from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's Fellowship Program^[6]
- 2002: Awarded an honorary doctorate from Montana State University
- 2002: received the International Women's Forum award for "Women Who Make a Difference," in Mexico City.
- 2004: Silverheels Achievement Award from the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development.
- 2005: received a "Cultural Freedom Fellowship" from the Lannan Foundation, an award that cited Cobell's persistence in bringing to light the government's "more than a century of government malfeasance and dishonesty" with the Indian Trust.
- 2007: one of ten people to receive American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Impact Award (for making the world a better place)
- 2007: named one of the inaugural Rural Heroes by the National Rural Assembly (<http://ruralassembly.org/fl>). ^[13]

- 2011: awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from [Dartmouth College](#)^[14]
- 2011: awarded the Montana Trial Lawyers Association's Citizens Award^[5]
- 2016: awarded a posthumous [Presidential Medal of Freedom](#) by [President Barack Obama](#). Her son Turk Cobell accepted the medal on her behalf.^[12]
- 2018: one of the inductees in the first induction ceremony held by the National Native American Hall of Fame^[16]

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Maurice Hilleman (1919-2005)

Saving Millions of Lives via Vaccine Breakthroughs

"Montana hlood runs very thick. And chicken hlood runs even thicker with me."

- Maurice Hilleman



ioneering vaccinologist Maurice Hilleman dedicated himself to developing microbiology research into life-saving products. One of the most important, yet least known, figures in public health, he developed over forty vaccines, including eight of

the fourteen vaccines recommended by the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Hilleman was born on August 30, 1919, in Miles City, Montana. He described the value of his Montana childhood: *"Life on a farm in an economically underdeveloped area of the western frontier during the Great Depression was not easy. But it was of immense value in providing hands-on experience in the worlds of biology and mechanics, and creating sobriety and an intensive work ethic."* Hilleman received a full scholarship to Montana State University, then known as Montana State College—a school that he praised as a *"no-nonsense institution where*

professors taught." After receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in microbiology and virology, Hilleman eschewed a traditional academic career and went to work for the pharmaceutical company E.R. Squibb & Sons.

While working at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research from 1948 to 1957, Hilleman identified the "drift and shift" process of how viruses undergo minor and major changes. Understanding this process improved

scientists' ability to produce vaccines and prevent pandemics. For example, during the 1957 influenza pandemic, Hilleman helped save countless lives through early detection of the virus strain.

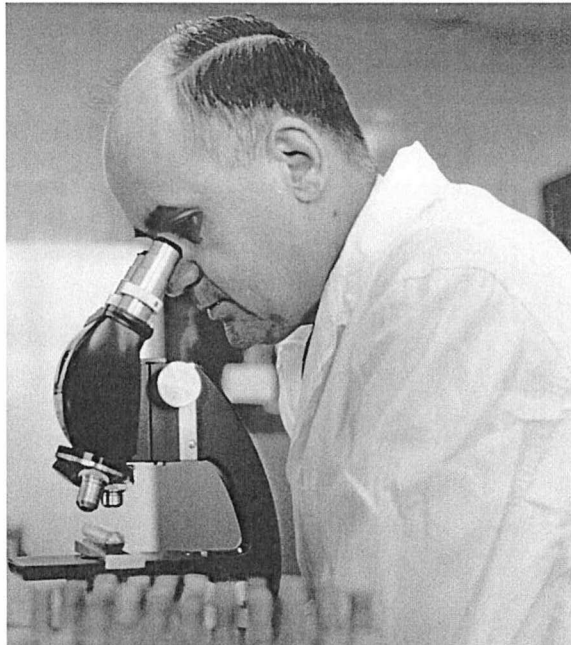
In 1957, Hilleman joined Merck as director of the new Department of Virus and Cell Biology. Under his visionary, efficient, and commanding leadership, Hilleman and his team developed vaccines for hepatitis B; meningitis;

pneumonia; *Haemophilus influenzae* bacteria; and measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR). An MMR vaccine administered today still uses the Jeryl Lynn strain that Hilleman sampled from his daughter when she had the mumps in 1963.

Hilleman's work extended beyond public health to the poultry industry. He developed a vaccine for Marek's disease, a viral infection which causes cancerous tumors in chickens. The disease results in lowered productivity, unsuitability of animals for commercial use, and accompanying economic losses. Licensed in 1971, Hilleman's vaccine was the

first vaccine against viral cancers.

After retiring from Merck at the company's mandatory age of sixty-five, Hilleman continued consulting until his death in 2005. Emphasizing the life-saving and economic values of prevention, he sought to use science for the public good. Hilleman's behind-the-scenes accomplishments are a testament to the work ethic, curiosity, and perseverance instilled in him growing up on a Montana farm.



Dr. Maurice Hilleman in his laboratory, c. 1962, Merck Archives; Merck, Sharp & Dohme Corp., 2014

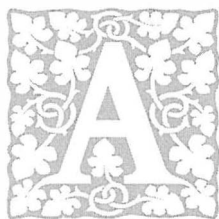
Alma Smith Jacobs

(1916-1997)

at Li Oitlv,;d-

"Your wisdom and skill have brought renewed light and learning to your fellow citizens. Your courage has brought great honor to all librarians.,,

-Trustees of Mount Holyoke College



Alma Smith Jacobs served as head librarian of the Great Falls Public Library for almost twenty years before becoming Montana's state librarian in 1973. Both of these achievements were firsts for an African American woman. Throughout

her life, Jacobs demonstrated a commitment to education, community building, and racial justice.

Alma Victoria Smith was born in 1916 in Lewistown, Montana, to Martin and Emma Riley Smith. The family moved to Great Falls when Alma was a child. Jacobs later earned scholarships to study sociology at Talladega College in Alabama and library science at Columbia University in New York. Newly married to World War II veteran Marcus Jacobs, she returned to Great Falls and began working at the public library in 1946, becoming head librarian eight years later.

Jacobs worked to expand the library's presence throughout Great Falls and across central Montana's rural communities. Persevering through two failed bond ballot measures, Jacobs advocated for the funding and construction of Montana's first modern library. It became known as *"the house that Alma built."* Jacobs believed a good library was a community center where people of all ages and backgrounds could pursue the knowledge needed to learn new vocations or advance their careers. She would often say, *"The public library is the poor man's university."*

According to Christian Stevens, a professor at the College of Great Falls, *"Her leadership has provided Great Falls with more than just a new library; it has constantly revived this city's important cultural character."* She was recognized for this work through awards such as the Great Falls Woman of the Year

(1957), the Montana Librarian of the Year (1968), and the Montana Education Association Golden Apple (1971).

Jacobs worked to advance civil rights while underplaying her own racial identity, stating, *"I don't consider myself the Negro authority in Great Falls or anyplace else. I resent being thought of as a Negro librarian. I would rather concentrate on being a good librarian."* Nevertheless, she spoke out against segregation. She served as president of the Montana Federation of Colored Women's Clubs and as a member of the Montana Advisory Committee to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. With her sister, Lucille Smith Thompson, she documented the history of African Americans in Montana.

Jacobs, who died in 1997, has not been forgotten. In 2009, Great Falls dedicated the Alma Jacobs Plaza. In 2016, the Great Falls Public Library Foundation installed a mural of her on the library she helped build.



Alma Smith Jacobs, no date, unidentified photographer, image courtesy of the Great Falls Public Library

Joe Medicine Crow

Joseph Medicine Crow (October 27, 1913 - April 3, 2016) was a war chief, author, and historian of the Crow Nation of Native Americans. His writings on Native American history and reservation culture are considered seminal works, but he is best known for his writings and lectures concerning the Battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876. He received the Bronze Star Medal and the Legion d'honneur for service during World War II, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009.

He was the last surviving war chief of the Crow Nation and the last living Plains Indian war chief. He was a founding member of the Traditional Circle of Indian Elders and Youth [i]

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Early life

Joseph Medicine Crow (his Crow name meant High Bird) was born in 1913 on the Crow Indian Reservation near Lodge Grass, Montana, to Amy Yellowtail and Leo Medicine Crow.[2] As the Crow kinship system was matrilineal, he was considered born for his mother's people, and gained his social status from that line. Property and hereditary positions were passed through the maternal line. Chief Medicine Crow, Leo's father, was a highly distinguished and honored chief in his own right, who at the age of 22 became a war chief. He set a standard for aspiring warriors and was his son's inspiration.



White Man Runs Him.


His maternal step-grandfather, White Man Runs Him, was a scout for US General George Armstrong Custer and an eyewitness to the Battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876.[3] Joe Medicine Crow's cousin is Pauline Small, the first woman elected to office in the Crow Tribe of Indians.

Education

When he was young, Medicine Crow heard direct oral testimony about the Battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876 from his step-grandfather, White Man Runs Him, who had been a scout for General George Armstrong Custer.[4]

Beginning in 1929, when he was in eighth grade, Medicine Crow attended Bacone College in Muskogee, Oklahoma, which also had preparatory classes for students of high school age. He studied until he completed an Associate of Arts degree in 1936. He went on to study sociology and psychology for his bachelor's degree from Linfield College in 1938.[5] He earned a master's degree in anthro from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles in 1939; he was the first member of the Crow tribe to obtain a master's degree.[4] His thesis, *The Effects of European Culture Contact upon the Economic, Social, and Religious Life of the Crow Indians*, has become a well-respected work about Crow culture.[6] He began work toward a doctorate, and by 1941 had completed the required coursework. He did not complete his Ph.D., due to the United States' entry into World War11.[4]

Joe Medicine Crow



With President Barack Obama in 2009

Born	Joseph Medicine Crow October 27, 1913 Near Lodge Grass, Montana, U.S.
Died	April 3, 2016 (aged 102) Billings, Montana, U.S.
Nationality	Indigenous (Crow Nation)
Alma mater	Linfield College University of Southern California
Occupation	Historian, war chief, anthropologist, author
Relatives	Pauline Small (cousin) White Man Runs Him (step-grandfather)
Awards	<div><div>Presidential Medal of Freedom</div></div>
Military career	
Allegiance	<div><div>United States of America</div></div>
Service/branch	<div><div>United States Arm:t</div></div>
Years of service	1943-1946
Rank	<div><div>Ri</div>Technician 5th grade</div>
Unit	103rd Infantry Division
Battles/wars	World War II
Awards	<div><div>Bronze Star</div><div>Legion d'honneur</div></div>

Medicine Crow taught at Chemawa Indian School for a year in 1941, then took a defense industry job in the shipyards of Bremerton, Washington in 1942.^[11]

World War II

After spending the latter half of 1942 working in the naval ship yards in Bremerton, Washington, Medicine Crow joined the U.S. Army in 1943.^[s] He became a scout in the 103rd Infantry Division, and fought in World War II. Whenever he went into battle, he wore his war paint (two red stripes on his arms) beneath his uniform and a sacred yellow painted eagle feather, provided by a "sundance" medicine man, beneath his helmet.^{DJ}

Medicine Crow completed all four tasks required to become a war chief: touching an enemy without killing him (counting coup), taking an enemy's weapon, leading a successful war party, and stealing an enemy's horse.^I He touched a living enemy soldier and disarmed him after turning a corner and finding himself face to face with a young German soldier.[—]

The collision knocked the German's weapon to the ground. Mr. Crow lowered his own weapon and the two fought hand-to-hand. In the end Mr. Crow got the best of the German, grabbing him by the neck and choking him. He was going to kill the German soldier on the spot when the man screamed out 'mama.' Mr. Crow then let him go.^[3]

He also led a successful war party and stole fifty horses owned by the Nazi SS from a German camp, singing a traditional Crow honor song as he rode off.^{[?][S]}

Medicine Crow is the last member of the Crow tribe to become a war chief. He was interviewed and appeared in the 2007 Ken Burns PBS series *The War*, describing his World War II service.^[3] Filmmaker Ken Burns said, "The story of Joseph Medicine Crow is something I've wanted to tell for 20 years.^{u9]}

Tribal spokesman

After serving in the Army, Medicine Crow returned to the Crow Agency. In 1948, he was appointed tribal historian and anthropologist.^[w] He worked for the BIA beginning in 1951.^[44] He served as a board member or officer on the Crow Central Education Commission almost continuously since its inception in 1972.^{[sl} In 1999, he addressed the United Nations.^[?]

Medicine Crow was a frequent guest speaker at Little Big Horn College and the Little Big Horn Battlefield Museum. He also was featured in several documentaries about the battle, because of his family's associated oral history. He wrote a script "that has been used at the reenactment of the Battle of Little Big Horn held every summer in Hardin since 1965."^[12]

Medicine Crow was a founding member of Little Bighorn College and of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming beginning in 1976.^{J!!J!3!}

As historian, Medicine Crow was the "keeper of memories" of his tribe. He preserved the stories and photographs of his people in an archive in his house and garage.^[8] His books include *Crow Migration Story*, *Medicine Crow*, the *Handbook of the Crow Indians Law and Treaties*, *Crow Indian Buffalo Jump Techniques*, and *From the Heart of Crow Country*. He also wrote a book for children entitled *Brave Wolf and the Thunderbird*.

Death

Medicine Crow continued to write and lecture at universities and public institutions until his death, at the age of 102, on April 3, 2016. He was in hospice care in Billings, Montana.^{[i4][1s]} He is survived by his only son Ron Medicine Crow, daughters Vernelle Medicine Crow and Diane Reynolds, and stepdaughter Garnet Watan.

Honors

- Medicine Crow received honorary doctorates from Rocky Mountain Colleg in 1999,^[11] his a/*ma* *mater* the University of Southern California in 2003,^[11] and Bacone College in 2010. He was an ambassador and commencement speaker at the latter, a college established for Native Americans, for more than 50 years.
- His memoir, *Counting Coup: Becoming a Crow Chief on the Reservation and Beyond*, was chosen in 2007 by the National Council for the Social Studies as a "Notable Tradebook for Young People."^[19]
- On June 25, 2008, Medicine Crow received two military decorations: the Bronze Star for his service in the U.S. Army, and the French Legion of Honor Chevalier medal, both for service during World War II. His other military awards include the Combat Infantryman Badg, Army Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Camp-aign Medal, and World War II Victory Medal.

External media



Audio

A Crow Warrior vs. The Nazis {ht

- On July 17, 2008, Senators Max Baucus, Jon Tester, and Mike Enzi introduced a bill to award him the Congressional Gold Medal; however, the bill did not garner the required sponsorship of two-thirds of the senate to move forward.¹²¹¹
- Medicine Crow received the Presidential Medal of Freedom (the highest civilian honor awarded in the United States) from President Barack Obama on August 12, 2009.¹⁴¹ During the White House ceremony, Obama referred to Medicine Crow as *bacheitche*, or a "good man," in the Crow language.♦

<http://blog.nmai.si.edu/main/2011/11/american-indian-heritage-storycorps-2011-joe-medicine-crow-remembers-losing-the-nazis.html>: Joseph Medicine Crow on StoryCorps♦

Video

♦ President Obama Honors Presidential Medal of Freedom Recipients (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iAu_yv8HnjI); see 24:25-25:50, White House!\$]

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External links

- [Joe Medicine Crow: Life and Work \(http://www.worldwisdom.com/public/authors/details.aspx?ID=138\)](http://www.worldwisdom.com/public/authors/details.aspx?ID=138) (film clips, articles, and slideshows)
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NORMAN J. "JEFF" HOLTER (1914-1983)

"THE RENAISSANCE SCIENTIST"

"Serendipity and coincidence play a large part in what anyone does in life. The formation of ideas follows a quite circuitous path and often leads to results never originally visualized or planned."

-- Jeff Holter, 1981

fourth generation Montanan, Norman J. "Jeff" Holter founded the Holter Research Foundation in Helena and became a globally recognized biophysicist. As well, he embraced the humanities, the arts, and the world of practical invention-becoming a true *"Renaissance scientist."*

Jeff was the son of Norman B. and Florence Holter. He graduated from Helena High School in 1931 and the University of California in Los Angeles in 1937. Holter then earned Master's degrees in chemistry and physics, and continued his education by completing postgraduate work at the University of Heidelberg (Germany), the University of Chicago, the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies, and the University of Oregon Medical School.

During World War II, Jeff served as senior physicist in the U.S. Navy, studying the characteristics of waves. In 1946 he headed a government research team involved in the atomic-bomb testing at Bikini Atoll. Throughout his career, Holter warned against the unbridled use of atomic energy for militaristic purposes.

In 1947 Holter returned to Helena to establish the non-profit, non-commercial Holter Research Foundation (HRF)-dedicated to the public good. While managing the HRF, Jeff periodically took positions with the military and with universities. For example, in 1952 he worked for the Atomic Energy Commission on the hydrogen-bomb project in the Marshall Islands. And, in 1964, he became a full professor at the University of California in San Diego, coordinating activities at the Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics.

Holter's belief in "non-goal-oriented research" produced such HRF discoveries as square raindrops, nuclear-explosion detectors, and a miniaturized heart monitor. Jeff's research colleague was Wilford R. "Bill" Glasscock. Their late-1950s, not-for-profit development of the Holter Heart Monitor revolutionized the treatment of coronary disease and spawned a billion-dollar industry.

A linguist, a photographer, a musician, and a sculptor of *"explosion art,"* Jeff Holter inspired scores of young Montanans to integrate the arts, the humanities, and science to produce unforeseen results. Montana's *"Renaissance man"*...a biophysicist who earned worldwide honors for scientific development-always remained dedicated to his state and its people.



Susie Walking Bear Yellowtail

Susie Walking Bear Yellowtail (1903-1981) (Crow-Sioux) was the first Crow and one of the first Native Americans to graduate as a registered nurse in the United States. Working for the Indian Health Service, she brought modern health care to her people and traveled throughout the U.S. to assess care given-to indigenous people for the Public Health Service. Yellowtail served on many national health organizations and received many honors for her work, including the President's Award for Outstanding Nursing Health Care in 1962 and being honored in 1978 as the "Grandmother of American Indian Nurses" by the American Indian Nurses Association. She was inducted into the Montana Hall of Fame in 1987 and in 2002 became the first Native American inductee of the American Nurses Association Hall of Fame.

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Early life

Susie Walking Bear was born on January 27, 1903 on the Crow Indian Reservation near Pryor, Montana to native parents. Her mother, Kills the Enemy or Jane White Horse was Oglala Sioux and her father, Walking Bear, was Apsaalooke Crow.^[4]^[2] Walking Bear's father died prior to her birth and her mother remarried Stone Breast. Raised by her mother and step father, she began school at the Catholic Mission in Pryor at age eight, but was orphaned when she was twelve and sent to the Indian Boarding School in Lodge Grass, Montana. In 1919, she accompanied a missionary, Francis Shaw, to Denver, for a Baptist convention, and though she had been promised she could return to the Crow school, she was sightseeing when her group returned to Montana. Shaw suggested that Walking Bear accompany her to Muskogee, Oklahoma and continue her schooling at Bacone Indian School. When Walking Bear completed her eighth grade studies, Shaw, then Mrs. Clifford Field, brought her to Northfield, Massachusetts¹ and paid the tuition for Walking Bear to attend Northfield Seminary. Walking Bear worked as a nanny and maid while attending school to be able to pay her own room and board.^[3]


The arduous schedule, cultural intolerance by the school administration which insisted she use the surname of "Bear", and suspicion of her employers was difficult for Walking Bear. In 1923, she applied to work at the Tall Pines Girl's Camp in Bennington, New Hampshire, planning on leaving Northfield permanently.^[4] She was accepted at the Franklin County Public Hospital in Greenfield, Massachusetts in 1924 to study nursing with Dr. Halbert G. Stetson and completed her internship at Boston General Hospital.^[5]^[6] Graduating in 1927, Walking Bear became the first registered nurse of Crow descent^[7] and one of the first Native American nurses graduated in the United States.^[8] though Elizabeth Sadoques Mason a full-blooded Abenaki and her sister Maude, obtained registration in New York State before Yellowtail. Elizabeth obtained her RN certificate in 1919, while Maude became a nurse probably in 1914.^[9] and Nancy Cornelius Oater Skenandore) of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin graduated from the Hartford Training School for Nurses in 1890.^[10] Lula Owl Gloyne (<http://minoritynurse.com/public-spirit/>) of the Eastern Band Cherokee Indian tribe graduated from Chestnut Hill Hospital School of Nursing in Philadelphia in 1916 an<passed the registration exam in Pennsylvania the same year. She was a 1st Lieutenant in the US Army in WWI.

Career

Graduating in September 1927,^[s] she returned briefly to the Public Hospital in Greenfield^[7] before taking a position in a private nursing facility in Oklahoma. Later she did home health nursing among the Chippewa of Minnesota, before returning to the Crow reservation. In 1929, Walking Bear married Thomas Yellowtail, who would become a spiritual leader in their tribe.^[i] Her first assignment in Montana was at the Indian Health Service's Hospital at the Crow Agency.^[3] For two years, she worked on the reservation to modernize the health services offered to her tribe and fight the forced sterilization of Native American women.^[n]

Between 1930 and 1960, Yellowtail served as a consultant, traveling throughout the country and documenting problems in the Indian Health Service (IHS), like inadequate numbers of facilities,^[12] inability of non-native nurses to speak with their patients from a culturally sensitive perspective or in their native language,^[13] unsanitary living conditions, barriers to help from traditional healers,^[3] health care only being available from IHS to Indians living on reservations¹¹ and many other concerns^[3] Bureaucrats in Washington were aware of the failures of the IHS and from the early 1940s relied on Yellowtail's assessments of both the needs and challenges of the system.^[1s] She served on an advisory committee for the Division of Indian Health (DIH) to assist sanitation engineers in relaying to tribal members the

Susie Walking Bear Yellowtail



Born

Susie Walking Bear

January 27, 1903

near Pryor, Montana

Died

December 25, 1981

(aged 78)

Yola, Montana

Burial place

Lodge Grass Cemetery,

Big Horn County, Montana

Nationality

American

Occupation

nurse

Years active

1927-1979

Known for

First Crow registered nurse in the U.S.

importance of hygiene and sanitation in combating disease. DIH projects provided water supply, sewage disposal and garbage disposal for homes and it was the committee member's job to interface with homeowners and explain the importance of maintaining the systems as well as the benefits of them. [16]

During this time, Yellowtail was also active with several cultural events. She was a dancer in a troupe, the Crow Indian Ceremonial Dancers, led by Donald Deernose. Other members, besides Yellowtail and her husband and Deernose and his wife Agnes, were Lloyd Littlehawk, Henry and Stella Old Coyote, Henry Rides the Horse, and Fred Two Warriors. The group began a European-tour in 1953, performing in Algeria, Denmark, England, Holland, Israel, Luxembourg, Morocco, and Turkey. [17] Yellowtail and the other dancers toured in Belgium, Finland, France, Italy, Norway, Spain and Sweden and spent an entire month in Paris performing to sold-out houses in 1954. [18] Returning from the tour in 1955, the troupe performed at a benefit of the Montana Institute of the Arts for the Montana Historical Society. [17] Yellowtail also served as the official chaperone for Miss Indian America from its inception into the 1970s. [19]

Yellowtail was awarded the President's Award for Outstanding Nursing by President John F. Kennedy in 1962. [20] In 1965, she was named Mrs. American Indian at the American Indian Youth Conference held in Cambridge, Massachusetts. [21] In 1968, she was appointed to serve a four-year term on the Public Health Service's Advisory Committee on Indian Health. [22] In 1970, she was one of five featured speakers in a Health, Education and Welfare documentary concerning the services provided to indigenous communities by the Indian Health Service. [23] That same year, at the All-American Indian Days festival in Sheridan, Wyoming, Yellowtail and her husband were honored as the "Outstanding Indian of the Year" for their leadership and public services to the Native American Community. [24]

In 1972, Yellowtail was reappointed by Governor Forrest H. Anderson to serve on the State Advisory Council for Vocational Education. [25] She stressed the need for native education so that Indians could compete for jobs. She also voiced concern that native people needed to train for service sector jobs, like lawyers, doctors, nurses, and teachers so that children and adults had access to help from people who understood their culture. Yellowtail also served on the National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Committee and was appointed by President Richard Nixon to serve on the Council on Indian Health, Education and Welfare and the federal Indian Health Advisory Committee. She founded the first professional association of Native American nurses [26] and in 1978, was honored by the American Indian Nurses Association as the "Grandmother of American Indian Nurses". [27]

Yellowtail died on Christmas Day, 1981 [28] at her home in Wyola, Montana. [27] Posthumously, she was inducted in 1987 into the Montana Hall of Fame and in 2002 to the American Nurses Association Hall of Fame as the first Native American inductee. [29]

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