

**Congressional Citation**  
**U.S. Senator Jon Tester**  
**September 29, 2011**

Mr. President, I rise today in honor of 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'm proud to share Mr. Dolney's story of heroism, because like so many others, it's 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, South Dakota. 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 two 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.

Mr. President, 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 a Prisoner of War in World War II. And throughout his life, he never complained.

In 1973, his military records were destroyed by a fire in St. Louis.

But after his family reached out to my office, we were able to secure the medals Mr. Dolney never received.

It is my honor to finally present to Mr. Dolney his:

- Bronze Star
- European-African-Middle-Eastern Campaign Medal with four Bronze Service Stars
- American Defense Service Medal
- World War II Victory Medal
- Combat Infantryman Badge First Award
- Good Conduct Medal
- And the Honorable Service Lapel Button, World War II

These seven medals are small tokens, but they are powerful symbols of true heroism. Sacrifice. And dedication to service.

These medals are presented on behalf of a grateful nation.