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President Obama Honors Recipients of the 2011 Citizens Medal

President Obama has selected thirteen recipients out of nearly 6,000 public nominations to come from across the country to The White House to receive the Presidential Citizens Medal for exemplary service to their fellow citizens. Dr. Judith Broder of Studio City, California is one of the recipients.

In 2004, Dr. Judith Broder created The Soldiers Project, which has worked to meet the mental health needs of service members, returning veterans, and their loved ones. Through The Soldiers Project, over 700 therapists have provided over 10,000 hours of pro bono, confidential psychological services. The Soldiers Project seeks to decrease the disruptive effects of repeated deployments, enhance post-deployment transition and re-integration, and mitigate suffering related to PTSD, TBI, substance abuse, domestic violence, and depression. Dr. Broder received the Citizens Medal for her dedication to those who serve this country.

On October 20, 2011, President Obama will welcome to the White House the 13 recipients of the 2011 Presidential Citizens Medal, the nation's second-highest civilian honor. "This year's recipients of the Citizens Medal come from different backgrounds, but they share a commitment to a cause greater than themselves," said President Obama. "They exemplify the best of what it means to be an American, and I am honored to be able to offer them a small token of our appreciation."

The Citizens Medal was established in 1969 to recognize American citizens who have performed exemplary deeds of service for their country or their fellow citizens. Like last year, President Obama is recognizing Americans this year whose work has had a significant impact on their communities but may not have garnered national attention. In May, the President called on members of the public to nominate people in their lives who have performed exemplary deeds of service outside of their regular jobs, including individuals:

- Who have a demonstrated commitment to service in their own community or in communities farther from home. Someone who has engaged in activities that have had an impact in their local community, on a community or communities elsewhere in the United States, or on fellow citizens living or stationed around the world.
- Who have helped their country or their fellow citizens through one or more extraordinary acts. Individuals who have demonstrated notable skill and grace, selflessly placed themselves in harm's way, taken unusual risks or steps to protect others, made

extraordinary efforts to further a national goal, or otherwise conducted themselves admirably when faced with unusually challenging circumstances.

- Whose service relates to a long-term or persistent problem. Individuals who have made efforts to combat stubbornly persistent problems that impact entire communities; for example, those who have taken innovative steps to address hunger, homelessness, the dropout crisis, lack of access to health care, and other issues that plague too many Americans.

- Whose service has had a sustained impact on others' lives and provided inspiration for others to serve. The ideal nominee for a Citizens Medal is a person whose work has had a meaningful and lasting impact on the lives of others.