

At this point, I suggest that you introduce a new paragraph of the following sort:

"As Executive Director of the ASA, I have the honor to announce that Dr. Frank E. Grubbs of the Army's Ballistic Research Laboratories has been selected to receive the "initial", not the first, Samuel S. Wilks Award. As is not unusual in the initial award of an honor, Dr. Grubbs was selected not by the process governing the first and subsequent recipients, but rather by unanimous agreement of those concerned with the establishment of the Award. He is so selected because of his close working relationship with Wilks, and especially because of his contributions along with Wilks to solutions of and clarification of simple measures of dispersion, which are deemed useful to riflemen, ballisticians, and statisticians in general.

I have no medal to present ot Dr. Grubbs, because the medal has not yet been struck; but it will be presented at the earliest appropriate opportunity, after it is available. 29

I then suggest that you might omit next to the last paragraph. Of course, I expect you to edit my suggestions or omit them to whatever degree you deem appropriate. They are merely suggestions.

It is contemplated that the presiding officer will introduce the speakers in the following order: Simon, Riley, and Mr. Rust. Mr. Rust will present Grubbs with the honorarium and make a very brief address. If there is anything that you deem inappropriate, or that you would like changed, please telephone me. I expect to be at home until noon, November 3.

Sincerely yours,

Leslie K. Simon  
Maj Gen USA(Ret'd)

Copy to:  
Colonel Bull

xxxx RDRE-12

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US Army Aberdeen Research &  
Development Center  
ATTN: Dr. Frank Grubbs (AMXRD-XRA)  
Chief, Operations Research Analyst  
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21005.

Dear Frank,

I have just received your letter of 27 January 1972 and am taking this opportunity to respond to it and to respond also to what was written in your 4 November letter.

I inclose an edited copy of my letter of 10 May 1971 to you, in which I attempted cumbrously to give some history regarding the establishment of the Samuel J. Wilks Memorial Medal. As I stated therein, I was the Action Officer who was tasked at the Department of the Army level with taking appropriate action on Mr Rust's proposal to establish such an award. Thus, most (if not all) of the correspondence emanating from the Pentagon on the award were my creations.

To get to the point, if memory serves me correctly (i.e. the files are in my office in Washington), the criteria of "only coincidentally benefited the Army" was introduced by Army legal personnel in order to permit Army employees to receive the Medal. As a result, we were able to select you for the initial award.

The above is history. We have also as history the fact that Mr Rust requested that the Army give the award - the implication here is that Award winners would be those who have performed a service to the Army.

If the two comments in the preceding paragraphs are partially contradictory, it is because circumstances forced the contradiction in order to permit awards to be made to Army employees. However, the basic thought was to give due recognition to those

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leaders in the statistics profession who also assisted the Army. One can, of course, broaden this to include service to the Federal Government. In this latter connection, the December 1964 article on Professor Wilks just touched on some of the Federal agencies that he assisted.

Now, we have that the Wilks Award is to be given to someone who has done or is doing at least one of the requirements specified:-

- a. Contributing to the advancement of knowledge.
- b. Ingenious application.
- c. Fostering co-operative efforts.

Interestingly enough, Professor Wilks possessed all these qualities. In addition, he gave of himself in an unstinting manner to assist many Federal agencies. This latter quality of assisting others was to have been specified as a criterion but was deleted for the reasons given in my second paragraph.

When I look at previous Award winners, I find that many of the winners have satisfied all four criteria. However, some have had little contact with the Army or with the Federal Government. For my part, I shall continue to look for and to vote for those who satisfy all four criteria, since I feel that only then would I be fulfilling both Mr Rust's basic desires and giving due homage to the memory of Professor Wilks. I find myself unable to vote for outstanding statisticians, say, who do not satisfy the other three criteria.

Since I must vote my conscience and not that of previous (and well-respected) members of the Committee, I must object to your plan to "keep the two in Column A and to select two from Column B". My feelings are that the Award is "up for grabs" each year. I feel that a descriptive vita should be made available on each of the leading 10, 12 etc. candidates. I can, however, accept the notion that these 10 or more were selected from previous committee deliberations; but to the list should be added candidates proposed by new members of the Committee. I think that a sub-set should be selected after an initial vote but only after the initial vote of the members of the Committee.

Further, I do not think that I should be required to rank any individual/s if I choose not to. Alternatively, if I must rank him/them, I would prefer to rank them all as "10" or whatever the last ranking is.

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In closing, if it is felt that I am, or will be, a disruptive influence, I will accept ~~the~~ hint and resign. But, please make awards to those who in some sense resemble Professor Wilks.

Most sincerely,

FRED FRISHMAN

cc: Members of Wilks Committee  
Past President Eisenhart,