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MONEY HEROES

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Money

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Protecting teachers' retirement savings

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Dan Otter, 46

On crusade since: 2000

Day job: Social studies teacher

Achievement: Created the 403bwise.com website, which teaches nonprofit and public-sector workers how to maximize their retirement savings

Why he's a hero: Hired in 1992 as a fourth-grade teacher in California, Otter soon learned that his 403(b), a 401(k)-like retirement plan for nonprofit and public-sector workers, held poor investment options -- mainly high-cost annuities.

In 2000 he co-founded 403bwise.com, where teachers and others can learn about their plans, and how to fight for better ones.

Says Otter: "Costs of most teacher 403(b)s can cut savings by hundreds of thousands of dollars."

NEXT

BY PENELOPE WANG AND JOAN CAPLIN @MONEY - LAST UPDATED JULY 11 2012: 12:39 PM ET



PHOTO: ERIC SWANSON

Money Heroes



Champions of the small investor

Vanguard founder Jack Bogle and his diehard online followers were chosen as MONEY Heroes for their commitment to spreading investment advice that preaches simple, low-cost, diversified investing.

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