



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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WASHINGTON, D.C., FEB. 12, 1973 -- Senator Bob Dole today addressed the American Association of Councils of Medical Staffs of Private Hospitals, Inc. in Washington, D.C. During his speech the Kansas Senator directed his remarks toward today's release of our P.O.W.'s and M.I.A.'s. Dole said:

Today is a great day for America. The first of our prisoners are back. And the dignity and courage they demonstrated when they arrived at Clark Air Force Base this morning was thrilling.

And what were the first words they had to say? This was Capt. Jeremiah Denton, who spoke for the first men to land: "We are honored to have the opportunity to serve our country under difficult circumstances. We are profoundly grateful to our Commander-in-Chief and to our Nation for this day. God Bless America."

I believe that was one of the greatest moments in this Nation's history.

No complaint or criticism or self-pity from them. Only men, proud to have served America, grateful for the support they received and immensely proud to be Americans.

We suffered with them. The temptation for some to give up was constant. But the determination of most Americans not to abandon them and to support every effort to get them back has been rewarded. So we have much to be grateful for.

I only hope that their gratitude, as expressed by Captain Denton, might inspire the same in us. I can only hope that Captain Denton's prayer, "God Bless America," will be shared by us all.

Theirs is a moving pride -- a hero's pride. They cannot forget what they endured, nor should we.

Senator Dole said that a larger question today, as the war ends, is not this ending, but the beginning of our involvement. Dole said we must know how it all began and, "if by that wisdom we may prevent the loss of other lives -- then we should seek that wisdom." Dole continued:

With these thoughts in mind, I have offered a resolution in the Senate to create a joint Congressional Committee to investigate the causes and origins of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam hostilities.

A joint Committee, appointed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, will, I believe, provide the fairest, most impartial means of providing the answers we must have.