

BOB DOLE



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SENATE PASSES DOLE RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING IWO JIMA DAY

WASHINGTON -- The Senate today passed a joint resolution introduced by Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) designating February 19, 1980, as Iwo Jima Commemoration Day.

"This resolution, on the 35th anniversary of the invasion of Iwo Jima, commemorates the heroism of the American servicemen who fought and died on the island of Iwo Jima in World War II," Dole said. "This commemoration is especially appropriate as our nation finds itself in a period of increasing international tension, for it serves to remind all Americans that, though we are not a warlike people, Americans throughout history have acquitted themselves bravely in defense of our national interest."

Nearly 6,000 Marines were killed and 17,000 wounded in the assault on the island, which was the site of some of the most ferocious fighting in World War II. Yet in spite of these casualties, the victory at Iwo Jima was an important step in the American war effort. Iwo Jima was secured to establish an emergency base for American bombers on the long return trip from bombing runs over Japan.

"Certainly the Americans who served at Iwo Jima and the relatives and friends of those who died there have just cause to be proud," Dole said. "Those now serving in the armed forces can also reflect with pride on the tradition of valor which is their duty to uphold. Through this commemoration, all American citizens salute those who struggled on Iwo Jima."