

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 1980

CONTACT: BOB WAITE  
(202) 224-8953

## THOUSANDS OF FLAGS FLOWN OVER CAPITOL EACH YEAR FOR CONSTITUENTS

WASHINGTON-- In 1937 a Congressman, so the story goes, observed that the flag that was flying over the Capitol was being taken down. He asked if he could have it, and thus began a tradition that has carried on the last 43 years in which over 550,000 flags have been flown over the Capitol at the request of Members of Congress.

Having flags flown over the Capitol is still popular with Kansans, according to Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas), who has performed this service for constituents since coming to Congress in 1961.

These flags have been flown for constituents in honor of birthdays, graduations, marriages, Flag Day and Christmas, to name just some of the occasions.

Dole's office has had literally thousands of flags flown since he first took office.

"The American flag is a symbol of our country and is of profound significance to many citizens," said Senator Dole. "I am impressed that so many Kansans request a flag to be flown over the Capitol, and my office is always pleased to fulfill them," he added.

The Continental Congress on June 14, 1777, first passed the resolution establishing the Stars and Stripes as the official flag. And the present design of 13 stripes and one star for each state was adopted in April of 1818. Since that time, each June 14 has been proclaimed the birthday of the flag.

The official one day record for flags flown over the Capitol took place on July 4, 1976 when 10,471 flags were flown. That day saw three shifts of people hoisting the flag.

Any citizen interested in obtaining one of these special flags can write to Senator Dole for further information on prices and procedures for ordering. Flags are available in nylon and cotton in two sizes, 3X5 or 5X8.