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SENATOR DOLE'S MEMORIAL DAY STATEMENT

This year, Memorial Day has extra special significance as we pause to honor those Americans who gave their lives for our country. Let me tell you why.

Forty years ago the free world waited anxiously and prayed as history's greatest invasion force hit the beaches of France. It was called D-Day -- the beginning of the end of the sick dream of the Third Reich and its Nazi terror. June 6th, 1944 will stand forever as a monument to the cause of freedom. The word "courage" took on new meaning that day, as wave after wave of American boys walked into the teeth of German resistance.

To those brave men who paid the ultimate price on the sands of Normandy -- we owe a special Memorial Day tribute:

We also owe a salute this year to our veterans of the Viet Nam conflict. I am pleased that the remains of an American serviceman who died in Southeast Asia will finally be entombed with the unknown soldiers of other wars at the Arlington National Cemetery. Those who fought for freedom in Viet Nam deserve the highest recognition and a place of honor in our proud military history.

We should always remember the price of freedom isn't cheap. We can never retreat from the forces of oppression. Today, let's truly honor the brave men and women who helped keep us free.