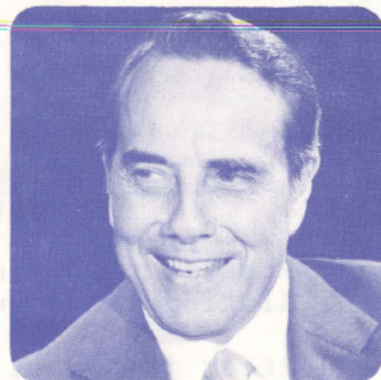


# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

**\*\*EMBARGOED UNTIL 9 AM EDT\*\*  
\*\*SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 1984\*\***

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\*\*\*\*\* PRESIDENTIAL DELEGATION IN ITALY \*\*\*\*\*

DOLE SALUTES FALLEN WWII COMRADES--  
RECEIVES SPECIAL MEDAL FROM MAYOR OF ROME

ROME -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole, the head of a 16-member Presidential Delegation to Italy to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the liberation of Rome, early Saturday morning delivered the keynote address at the World War II memorial ceremony and later received a special medal from the Mayor of Rome. He also read a proclamation from President Reagan, the text of which is included in this release.

Dole, a twice wounded and twice decorated veteran of the Italian campaign, told the audience: "As one who fought in that battle, who spilled some of his own blood and left a bit of himself forever behind, it is a special honor to come back to a nation now blessed with the fruits of peace. There are ghosts to keep us company this day."

During the official liberation ceremonies, Senator Dole was also presented a commemorative liberation medal from the Mayor of Rome, Ugo Vetere.

Today's ceremonies marked the 40th anniversary of the liberation of Rome -- June 4, 1944 -- when members of the U.S.-Canadian First Special Service Force entered the city. Before the keynote address, Dole helped unveil a plaque commemorating that battle group's triumphant entry into Rome, a moment that signaled to the free world that the axis grip on Europe was slipping.

Dole paid tribute to the allied liberators by saying, "Perhaps no single group played a prouder role in that liberation than the First Special Service Force. Drawn from two nations to join in freeing many, they were parachutists and rangers and commandos. As a member of the Tenth Mountain Division, I like to think of them as my colleagues."

As a young Army platoon leader, Dole was severely wounded in April, 1945 during fierce fighting in the mountains of northern Italy. For his combat action, Dole was awarded a Bronze Star for heroic achievement and the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Clusters.

The Dole-led U.S. delegation will return to Andrews Air Force Base late Sunday afternoon, 4 p.m. EDT.

(MORE)

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

UNVEILING OF PLAQUE TO THE FIRST SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE  
Saturday, June 2, 1984 -- 9:00 a.m. EDT

Mr. Foreign Minister, Ambassador Rabb, Secretary Marsh, General Vessey, distinguished guests...

This afternoon is a time of lament, for good men and women who died young. It is also a time of great pride, in them and the cause for which they sacrificed. It is an hour of mournful memory, and joyful reunion. It is a chance to renew one's acquaintance with this eternal city -- and in doing so, pay tribute to the civilians as well as the soldiers who helped to liberate it some forty years ago.

Perhaps no single group played a prouder role in that liberation than the First Special Service Force. Drawn from two nations to join in freeing many, they were parachutists and rangers and commandos. As a member of the Tenth Mountain Division, I like to think of them as my colleagues. And it is singularly appropriate, as the world prepares to commemorate the gigantic landings at Normandy, that we pause to remember those who by D-Day had already spent many weeks and months slogging their way up the Italian peninsula, bringing with them hope. Most of all, the hope of peace.

The veterans of the First Special Service Force are getting old now. Like so many others who took part in the European war, they have reached the age of funeral-going and story-telling, and it is hard not to look back without a touch of wistfulness at who we were and what we overcame.

There are some lines from Tennyson's Ulysses... "Though much is taken, much abides, and though we are not now that strength which in old days moved earth and heaven; that which we are, we are -- one equal temper of heroic hearts, made weak by time and fate, but strong in will to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield,"

I like to think that we who fought here can still strive, still seek, still find -- and that we have not yet yielded where honor is at stake, and freedom is a struggle. We are mortal. But courage is immortal. Examples live on. They may be commemorated in plaques, or told in the history books, or preserved in grainy films where no one ever ages. Today, we celebrate such an example, and the men who bequeathed it to us. Their heroic hearts beat on. Once they gave us back a continent. Now may their memory give us the courage to keep it.

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION READ BY SENATOR DOLE

Through this delegation of distinguished Americans, I am very proud to extend my warmest greetings to all Italians who join in the commemoration of the Fortieth Anniversary of the Liberation of Rome.

This important and memorable occasion provides me with a most welcome opportunity to salute the President of Italy, himself a valiant partisan in the struggle for Italian liberty, and all of his ministers, who symbolize the fruits of a long and costly effort to restore free government and an open democratic society to the great Italian nation.

On this day, it is also most appropriate to honor the memory of General Mark Clark whose First Special Service Force, composed of American and Canadian soldiers, was in the vanguard of the Allied army that entered Rome in June 1944.

In his own account of the enthusiasm and excitement of that historic day, General Clark told of meeting in St. Peter's Square an American priest who indicated the route to the Capitoline Hill. A young boy on a bicycle led General Clark's jeep to the Town Hall where he was received as the liberator of Rome.

It is a special privilege for me to add my voice to yours in marking this joyous anniversary for all Romans and for all Italians.

My countrymen and I join you in spirit in celebrating the abiding friendship between our two peoples and the free alliance which has bound us together over the last four decades. Italy and the United States are together striving to preserve our hard-won liberty and the free, open, fair, and prosperous societies that our democratic systems have made possible. I am particularly happy at this time to renew my dedication, on behalf of the American people, to the continuing success of this sacred endeavor of our two great nations.

May God bless each of you and may God bless the just and noble cause you celebrate.

--RONALD REAGAN