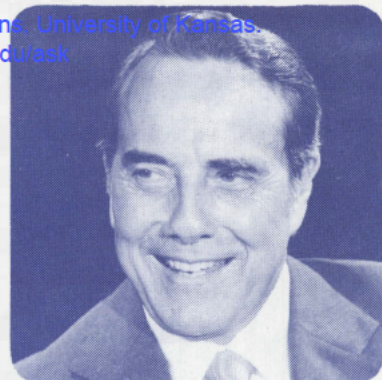


BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1984

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REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

ROBERT B. DOCKING MEMORIAL HIGHWAY DEDICATION

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1984

WE ARE HERE TODAY TO DEDICATE A HIGHWAY. IN DOING SO, WE ARE PAYING TRIBUTE TO A GREAT KANSAN. BUT LET ME SUGGEST THAT WE DON'T REALLY NEED A HIGHWAY, NOR A STATUE, NOR A BUILDING BEARING HIS NAME TO COMMEMORATE BOB DOCKING.

HIS LEGACY IS WRITTEN ALL ACROSS THIS GREAT STATE. HIS VISION OF THE FUTURE, HIS COMMON SENSE APPROACH TO GOVERNMENT AND HIS DEEP CONCERN FOR THE PEOPLE, HAVE MADE KANSAS A BETTER PLACE FOR ALL OF US. IN MY VIEW, HIS LIFE REPRESENTED THE VERY ESSENCE OF OUR STATE: HE WAS INDEPENDENT, HARDWORKING, GOD-FEARING AND DECENT.

BOB DOCKING WAS MY FRIEND. ON MANY OCCASIONS WE TALKED AND SHARED ADVICE. BELIEVE ME, I ALWAYS VALUED HIS THOUGHTS AND MISS THEM NOW. FOR HIM, PARTY LINES NEVER RULED OUT COURTESY OR COMMUNICATION. FOR HIM, POLITICS NEVER TOOK PRECEDENCE OVER PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS. THAT'S JUST THE WAY HE WANTED IT. THERE'S NO DOUBT THE DOCKING ERA ESTABLISHED A HIGH STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR ALL OF US IN PUBLIC OFFICE.

IN 1974, I WAS UP FOR RE-ELECTION. AND BOB WAS JUST COMPLETING EIGHT YEARS AS GOVERNOR. THERE WAS TALK OF A POSSIBLE DOLE-DOCKING RACE. BOB WAS A TREMENDOUSLY POPULAR POLITICIAN, WHO DID AN OUTSTANDING JOB AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE STATE, AS HIS FATHER HAD BEFORE HIM. FORTUNATELY FOR ME, BOB DECIDED TO RETIRE FROM POLITICS AND RETURN TO THE TOWN, THE FAMILY AND THE PEOPLE HE LOVED SO MUCH.

THOUGH NO LONGER IN TOPEKA, BOB CONTINUED TO BE A WELL-SPRING OF WISDOM RIGHT HERE IN ARK CITY: WHEN BOB SPOKE, WE LISTENED.

I THINK ABOUT HIM AS WE WRESTLE WITH FEDERAL DEFICITS AND GOVERNMENT SPENDING. WE HEAR A LOT OF RHETORIC ABOUT BALANCING THE BUDGET AND DEFICIT REDUCTION PLANS. FOR ME, GOVERNOR DOCKING HAD THE RIGHT IDEA-- WHEN HE PUT THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON HIS BUDGET, HIS COMMENT WOULD ALWAYS BE: "THIS BUDGET IS AUSTERE, BUT ADEQUATE." HE RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR PRUDENCE, AND THAT DESPITE THE HUE AND CRY FROM SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS, A SENSIBLE BUDGET THAT WAS BOTH ECONOMICAL AND COMPASSIONATE COULD BE CRAFTED.

THE GOVERNOR WAS ESPECIALLY PROUD OF HIS EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF KANSAS ROADWAYS. HIS LEGISLATIVE FORESIGHT PAVED THE WAY FOR EXPANDING THE NETWORK OF ROADS THAT SPAN OUR STATE. IT IS APPROPRIATE THEREFORE, THAT WE HONOR HIM BY NAMING THIS HIGHWAY THE ROBERT B. DOCKING MEMORIAL HIGHWAY. WE HONOR TODAY ONE OF US WHO ROSE TO GREATNESS, BUT WHO NEVER LOST SIGHT OF HIS HERITAGE.

THE SUNFLOWER STATE CAN TAKE ENORMOUS PRIDE IN THIS CITIZEN-POLITICIAN FROM ARK CITY WHO VOLUNTEERED HIS GIFT FOR LEADING TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS.