

# BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## DOLE CALLS FOR CAPITOL MURAL OF "CHALLENGER" ASTRONAUTS

WASHINGTON -- THE SEVEN ASTRONAUTS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES ON THE SPACE SHUTTLE "CHALLENGER" SHOULD BE MEMORIALIZED BY A COLOR MURAL IN AN HISTORIC HALLWAY IN THE U.S CAPITOL ACCORDING TO SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS).

"IN OUR SORROW, AMERICA HAS SEARCHED FOR WAYS TO EXPRESS OUR RESPECT AND ADMIRATION FOR THE 'CHALLENGER' HEROES. IN MY VIEW, A MURAL OF THE SHUTTLE CREW IN THE CAPITOL'S MAGNIFICENT BRUMIDI CORRIDOR WOULD BE AN APPROPRIATE MEMORIAL, NOT ONLY TO THE SEVEN, BUT TO ALL OUR SPACE PIONEERS WHO HAVE GIVEN SO MUCH TO THEIR COUNTRY," DOLE SAID.

AS SENATE MAJORITY LEADER, DOLE IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION ON ARTS AND ANTIQUITIES WHICH HAS JURISDICTION OVER ARTWORK IN THE CAPITOL. IN LETTERS TO THE RULES COMMITTEE, THE CAPITOL ARCHITECT AND THE CURATOR'S OFFICE, DOLE ASKED FOR FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF HIS REQUEST.

THE HISTORIC HALLWAY IN THE NORTH WING OF THE BUILDING IS RESPLENDENT WITH COLOR PORTRAITS AND CAMEOS OF GREAT FIGURES AND EVENTS IN AMERICAN HISTORY. THE ARTWORK WAS BEGUN IN 1855 BY CONSTANTINO BRUMIDI, A TALENTED ITALIAN CRAFTSMAN WHOSE WORK HELPED MAKE THE CAPITOL ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL BUILDINGS.

IN HIS WISDOM, MR. BRUMIDI LEFT BLANK SPACES IN THE CORRIDOR FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS TO HONOR THEIR HEROES. IRONICALLY, ONE SUCH BLANK IS DIRECTLY ACROSS THE HALL FROM A PICTURE OF THE APOLLO ASTRONAUTS LANDING ON THE MOON IN 1969.

"I CAN'T THINK OF A BETTER PLACE FOR THIS MEMORIAL TO OUR SPACE HEROES. IN FACT, THE LAST ADDITION TO THE HALLWAY WAS THE MOON LANDING MURAL. AS I HAVE STATED IN A LETTER TO THE RULES COMMITTEE, WE SHOULD PROCEED QUICKLY ON THIS TRIBUTE," DOLE ADDED.

"I LOOK FOWARD TO THE DAY WHEN VISITORS MARVELLING AT THE BRUMIDI CORRIDOR WILL BE ABLE TO REFLECT ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND SACRIFICES OF AMERICA'S FINEST -- OUR SEVEN BRAVE ASTRONAUTS AND THEIR COURAGEOUS COLLEAGUES."

## United States Senate

OFFICE OF THE MAJORITY LEADER  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 18, 1986

The Honorable Charles McC. Mathias, Jr.  
Chairman  
Committee on Rules and Administration  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

America still mourns its fallen space heroes. In our sorrow, we have all searched for ways to memorialize the crew members of the space shuttle "Challenger". The ceremonies, the tributes and the outpouring of affection for the astronauts have been a remarkable and moving national experience.

In my view, Americans would welcome to their Capitol building a permanent tribute to the "Challenger" crew so that succeeding generations will have an opportunity to remember these space pioneers.

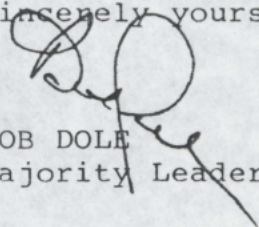
Therefore, as a way to honor the seven brave Americans who lost their lives on January 28, 1986, I am requesting that a color mural of these heroes be added to the Capitol's Brumidi Corridor.

Because this hallway is reserved for beloved and honored figures in our history, it seems entirely appropriate that these astronauts join the great Americans already memorialized in our Capitol building.

In fact, there is a particular spot in the corridor that would be ideal for this new art project. It is directly across the hall from the last addition to the famous corridor -- the 1969 Apollo moon landing.

As Chairman of the Commission on Arts and Antiquities, I hope you will give this request your careful consideration. I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Sincerely yours,



BOB DOLE  
Majority Leader