

HANK JAMESON: JOURNALIST, KANSAN & FRIEND

OCTOBER 3, 1986

STATEMENT BY SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE

MR. DOLE. MR. PRESIDENT, I WAS SADDENED TO HEAR OF THE PASSING LATE WEDNESDAY OF HENRY B. JAMESON, LONGTIME EDITOR OF THE ABILENE REFLECTOR-CHRONICLE. HE WAS ONE OF THE REAL STARS IN THE GALAXY OF KANSAS JOURNALISTS THAT HAS BROUGHT NATIONAL RESPECT AND RECOGNITION TO MY HOMESTATE NEWSPAPERS.

HANK WAS THE ESSENCE OF KANSAS: WARM AND FRIENDLY, FIERCELY INDEPENDENT, AND LOADED WITH COMMON SENSE. IF YOU WANTED TO FEEL THE PULSE OF THE PLAINS--TO KNOW THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE--YOU HAD ONLY TO CALL HANK. HE ONLY NEEDED A FEW CHOICE WORDS TO TELL YOU EXACTLY

WHAT WAS HAPPENING BACK HOME. AND IF YOU DID NOT GET THE MESSAGE, YOU WOULD GET IT FROM ONE OF HIS CRACK EDITORIALS.

EYEWITNESS TO HISTORY

MR. PRESIDENT, MY FRIEND FROM ABILENE WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF A LOT OF HISTORY; AND ALWAYS, HIS PEN AND TYPEWRITER BROUGHT THOSE EVENTS ALIVE FOR HIS READERS IN EVERY CORNER OF THE WORLD, FROM ASIA TO ABILENE. HANK WAS A WORLD WAR II CORRESPONDENT WHO PUT HIS LIFE ON THE LINE AT NORMANDY TO REPORT THE DRAMA OF D-DAY FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS. ALTHOUGH HE WAS WOUNDED DURING THE INVASION, HE CONTINUED SENDING DISPATCHES BACK TO HIS SHIP OFF THE EMBATTLED NORMANDY COAST.

THE EISENHOWER STORY--UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

THANKS TO ABILENE, HANK JAMESON ENJOYED AN UP-CLOSE AND PERSONAL VIEW OF ONE OF THE GREAT CHAPTERS IN AMERICAN HISTORY: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF DWIGHT DAVID EISENHOWER. FROM IKE'S HUMBLE FAMILY HOME IN TOWN, TO THE BLOODY BATTLEFIELDS OF EUROPE AND ALL THE WAY TO THE WHITE HOUSE, HANK WAS AN EYEWITNESS TO

THE EISENHOWER LEGEND. WHEN THE WORLD CAME TO ABILENE--AS IT OFTEN DID DURING THE EISENHOWER YEARS--MORE THAN A FEW HIGH POWERED OFFICIALS AND HEADS OF STATE TOUCHED BASE WITH HANK JAMESON. HE EARNED THEIR RESPECT AND THEY CHERISHED HIS WISDOM. AND BELIEVE ME, THE KANSAN IN THE OVAL OFFICE NEVER LOST TOUCH WITH HANK, EITHER.

FAREWELL TO A FRIEND

BUT AS MUCH AS OUR FRIEND WAS TIED TO THE EISENHOWER SAGA, HANK WAS MUCH MORE THAN JUST A SPECTATOR TO HISTORY. HE WAS AN INVOLVED AND THOROUGHLY ACTIVE EDITOR AND PUBLISHER WHO MADE HIS NEWSPAPER AN IMPORTANT VOICE FROM THE HEARTLANDS. HE LOVED HIS COMMUNITY, WORKED EVERYDAY TO IMPROVE IT AND LIVED HIS LIFE TO THE END IN ABILENE.

MR. PRESIDENT, I AM PROUD TO CALL HANK JAMESON MY FRIEND. THE SENATOR FROM KANSAS AND THE SUNFLOWER STATE WILL MISS THIS GOOD MAN. OUR PRAYERS AND THOUGHTS GO OUT TO THE JAMESON FAMILY.

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