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DOLE CALLS FOR POW/MIA FLAG OVER CAPITOL; SALUTES KANSAS SUPPORT DURING NATIONAL POW/MIA DAY CEREMONIES

WASHINGTON -- In a dramatic military and congressional ceremony in front of the Nation's Capitol, Kansas Senator Bob Dole pledged that America will "never forget" the brave soldiers who are still unaccounted for in foreign conflicts.

Dole, a wounded combat veteran, and the principal sponsor of National POW/MIA Day, is leading the fight to fly a special flag over the Capitol honoring our POW's and MIA's and their families.

"The plight of our POW/MIA's is one issue which deserves to be a top priority for every American. I'm pleased to report that I continue to receive petitions to Hanoi from Kansans who care," Dole said.

"As a matter of fact, I have one with me here today signed by a lady from my hometown of Russell, Rachel Nuss. Now that's grassroots America, I assure you!"

"So make no mistake about it: the American people care deeply about our missing heroes and their families; we admire their continued faith and courage."

"It was an honor when those family members asked me to sponsor the Senate's legislation that created this special day. On this date last year, the Senate passed my resolution authorizing the display of the POW/MIA flag in the Capitol."

"If the magnificent Capitol is truly 'the people's building', then I can think of no better place to hang a flag that means so much to so many. I hope the Congress will complete action on our legislation as soon as possible."

"As Americans, we are all encouraged that the recent so-called technical talks in Hanoi were successfully completed. But there is still much, much more to do. Let me remind the Vietnamese today that we will remain united -- Democrats, Republicans, and Independents -- until we resolve once and for all the fates of all those brave Americans."

"I would also use this opportunity to highlight the Korean POW/MIA issue. The status of more than 8,000 men remains unresolved. The North Koreans have a golden opportunity this year to display their willingness to rejoin the real world by dealing in good faith through the proper channels on this vital human issue."

"Let's hope that when we meet again next year we can report real progress and real results. The bottom line is: we'll never forget, and we'll never give up!" Dole concluded.