

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

HONORING FRED C. BRAMLAGE

OCTOBER 14, 1988

SENATOR DOLE. MR. PRESIDENT, A GREAT KANSAN AND HUMANITARIAN WILL BE HONORED NEXT MONDAY WHEN FRED C. BRAMLAGE OF JUNCTION CITY IS AWARDED THE GENERAL CREIGHTON W. ABRAMS MEDAL BY THE ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY. HE HAS SET AN EXAMPLE FOR AMERICANS ACROSS THE NATION.

KANSAS HAS HONORED HIS MORE THAN SIXTY YEARS DEDICATED TO HELPING OTHERS. I COMMEND THE AUSA FOR GIVING THIS MAN WITH A BIG HEART AND A KIND WORD THE NATIONAL HONOR HE DESERVES.

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSIONER

AS A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION UNDER THREE PRESIDENTS, FRED AND HIS COLLEAGUES WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, AND MAINTENANCE OF MEMORIALS AT HOME AND MILITARY CEMETERIES ABROAD. THANKS TO THIS DEDICATED GROUP, RELATIVES HAVE HELP AND GUIDANCE IN VISITING THE GRAVESITES OF LOVED ONES AT CEMETERIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. IN FACT, HE HAS CONTINUED TO GIVE HIS TIME AND EFFORTS TO THE COMMISSION WELL BEYOND HIS TERM OF SERVICE.

CIVILIAN AIDE TO THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

IN KANSAS, FRED IS THE ARMY'S MAN - AN ADVOCATE FOR FORT RILEY, FOR THE FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION, AND FOR NATIONWIDE PROGRAMS THAT IMPACT OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN. IN 1981, FRED WAS APPOINTED TO A POST HE HELD UNOFFICIALLY LONG BEFORE - CIVILIAN AIDE TO SECRETARY OF THE ARMY. HE SERVES AS LIAISON BETWEEN THE ARMY AND THE CITIZENS OF KANSAS, RESPONSIBLE FOR SEEING TO THE NEEDS OF THE ARMY AND KEEPING STRONG TIES WITH THE STATE AND NEARBY COMMUNITIES.

THERE IS NO MORE MEANINGFUL SPOKESMAN FOR THE U.S. ARMY THAN FRED BRAMLAGE. IN 1965, FORT RILEY'S FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION WAS DISPATCHED TO VIETNAM. AS THE SOLDIERS RETURNED FROM OVERSEAS, THERE WAS TALK OF ASSIGNING THE DIVISION ELSEWHERE. HOWEVER, FRED INSISTED THAT FORT RILEY CONTINUE TO BE THE HOME OF THE FIRST DIVISION. AS A JUNIOR SENATOR, I CLEARLY REMEMBER STANDING BESIDE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MELVIN LAIRD ON THAT BRIGHT SUMMER DAY IN 1970 DURING THE CEREMONY CELEBRATING THE RETURN OF THE COLORS OF THE FIRST DIVISION.

HONORARY VICE PRESIDENT, SOCIETY OF THE FIRST DIVISION

STANDING HERE IN WASHINGTON ADJACENT TO THE WHITE HOUSE IS THE FIRST DIVISION MEMORIAL MARKED BY A STATUE OF A GOLDEN EAGLE WHICH HONORS SOLDIERS IN WORLD WAR I AND WORLD WAR II. FRED BRAMLAGE INSISTED ON EXPANDING THAT MONUMENT TO INCLUDE THOSE WHO SERVED IN VIETNAM. HIS EFFORTS PREVAILED. THE SOCIETY OF THE FIRST DIVISION RECOGNIZED HIS DEDICATION BY NAMING HIM HONORARY VICE PRESIDENT.

FRED BRAMLAGE IS A MAN OF IDEAS AND A MAN OF ACTION. TO KNOW HIM IS TO UNDERSTAND THE DRIVE BEHIND ALL THAT HE HAS DONE FOR THE ARMY WHICH IS REFLECTED IN HIS LONG, SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS CAREER AND PERSONAL LIFE.

AS A YOUNG MAN STUDYING AT KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY IN NEARBY MANHATTAN, KANSAS, HE OWNED AND OPERATED A SERVICE STATION IN HIS HOMETOWN OF JUNCTION CITY. AFTER TIME OUT FOR A STINT IN THE U.S. NAVY, HE SPENT THE NEXT SIXTY YEARS PARLAYING THAT VENTURE INTO BUSINESSES AS VAST AS DISTRIBUTORSHIPS, REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, MANUFACTURING, AND BANKING.

TO KNOW FRED IS TO FIND THAT HE IS QUIET BUT FORCEFUL, REALISTIC BUT PERSEVERANT. ABOVE ALL, HE HAS BEEN DESCRIBED CORRECTLY BY HIS FRIENDS AND ASSOCIATES AS SELFLESS. FRED WATCHES CAREFULLY OVER THE SOLDIER'S FAMILY WITH A CRISIS, OVER THE COMMUNITY THAT NEEDS A NEW FACILITY, AND OVER THE CANDIDATE FOR OFFICE THAT NEEDS A BOOST. HE CARES AND HE RESPONDS. HE HAS SET AN EXAMPLE FOR US.

1988, A YEAR OF HONORS

FRED BRAMLAGE WAS NAMED 1988 KANSAN OF THE YEAR BY THE NATIVE SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN JANUARY. IN FEBRUARY, HONORS WERE BESTOWED DURING A SPECIAL CEREMONIAL AT FORT RILEY BY THE NATIONAL GUARD, THE RESERVES, AND ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY. TWO WEEKS AGO, KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY DEDICATED THE FRED BRAMLAGE COLISEUM AFTER NAMING HIM RECIPIENT OF THE ALUMNI MEDALLION AWARD, LAST YEAR.

THE SENIOR SENATOR FROM KANSAS SALUTES FRED BRAMLAGE AS HE IS AWARDED THE GENERAL CREIGHTON W. ABRAMS MEDAL BY THE ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1988. ON BEHALF OF THE STATE OF KANSAS AND THE NATION, I EXTEND WARM CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FRIEND AND COMRADE. HE HAS OUR THANKS, OUR RESPECT, AND OUR ADMIRATION.