

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 18, 1988

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TOPEKA SOLDIER'S DEATH SPURS CHANGE IN FEDERAL LAW;
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Washington, D.C. -- The accidental death of a Kansas G.I. stationed overseas has helped spur a major change in the G.I. Bill, Senator Bob Dole announced today.

Dole won unanimous support from his colleagues today to change the law so that if a soldier dies, his or her contributions to the G.I. Education Program will not be forfeited - they will be refunded to the beneficiary of the deceased.

"The tragic 1987 death of Topeka's John Grady in an auto accident, has focused long overdue attention on a real flaw in the G.I. Bill," Dole said. "I have worked closely with his family to see this day come and I am pleased to announce this important, commonsense change in the law."

Dole added that as the law previously states, if a GI Bill participant is killed on active duty, his contribution to the educational fund is automatically forfeited.

"Like many other young men, John contributed \$1200 under the GI Education Program so that he could attend college after his service. Tragically, John will never have that opportunity and never be able to realize his self-expressed goal of becoming 'the finest communications officer the Army had ever seen.'"

"Approximately 2,000 soldiers die while serving on active duty each year, said Dole. "Included in this group are the 37 heroic sailors who were killed in last year's U.S.S. Stark tragedy, a number of other brave men and women who proudly served our country and a young Kansan who had great potential, Specialist Fourth Class John Grady of Topeka."

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