

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE ADDRESSES JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS
ON DWIGHT EISENHOWER
"HEART OF AMERICA HERO"
STILL POINTING THE WAY TO FREEDOM

FOLLOWING ARE REMARKS MADE BY REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS) DURING THE JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS TO CELEBRATE THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF DWIGHT EISENHOWER:

GOOD MORNING. ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL EISENHOWER CENTENNIAL COMMISSION, IT IS MY PRIVILEGE TO WELCOME YOU TO CEREMONIES HONORING A GREAT AMERICAN HERO -- WHO JUST HAPPENS TO BE THE FAVORITE SON OF KANSANS EVERYWHERE. THROUGHOUT THIS CENTENNIAL YEAR, DWIGHT EISENHOWER IS BEING RECALLED AS A HISTORICAL GIANT -- THE ARCHITECT OF OPERATIONS OVERLORD AND THE STATESMAN BEHIND THE ATOMS FOR PEACE. BUT FOR MILLIONS THE WORLD OVER WHO STILL LIKE IKE, HE REMAINS A REASSURING SYMBOL OF THE EXTRAORDINARY QUALITIES THAT LIE WITHIN SEEMINGLY ORDINARY PEOPLE.

"I BELIEVE FANATICALLY IN THE AMERICAN FORM OF DEMOCRACY," HE ONCE WROTE, "A SYSTEM THAT RECOGNIZES AND PROTECTS THE RIGHT OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND THAT ASCRIBES TO THE INDIVIDUAL A DIGNITY ACCRUING TO HIM BECAUSE OF HIS CREATION IN THE IMAGE OF A SUPREME BEING."

SUCH VALUES DO NOT JUST HAPPEN.

IKE'S KANSAS UPBRINGING TAUGHT EVEN AS IT TESTED. "I HAVE FOUND OUT IN LATER YEARS WE WERE VERY POOR," HE SAID WHEN HE WENT BACK TO ABILENE IN 1947 TO LAY THE CORNERSTONE OF A MUSEUM BEARING HIS FAMILY'S NAME, "BUT THE GLORY OF AMERICA IS THAT WE DIDN'T KNOW IT THEN. ALL THAT WE KNEW WAS THAT OUR PARENTS -- OF GREAT COURAGE -- COULD SAY TO US: OPPORTUNITY IS ALL ABOUT YOU. REACH OUT AND TAKE IT."

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