

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
JULY 13, 1990

IT'S ALWAYS A PLEASURE TO MEET WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES. SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1970, THE NATIONAL LEAGUE HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN OUT FRONT IN AMERICA'S GOAL OF A FULL ACCOUNTING FOR OUR MISSING-IN-ACTION.

I AM VERY PROUD TO RECEIVE THIS AWARD, BUT IT IS AN HONOR I SHARE WITH YOU. MY WORK ON BEHALF OF OUR MIAs OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS HAS BEEN FULLY SUPPORTED BY THE TIRELESS WORK AND ENDURANCE OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE. ANY SUCCESS I HAVE HAD IN BRINGING THE POW/MIA ISSUE TO THE FOREFRONT OF THE UNITED STATES COMES FROM THE STRENGTH AND DETERMINATION OF EACH OF YOU.

IN 1969, AS A FRESHMAN SENATOR I HAD THE HONOR TO BE THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKER BEFORE A GROUP OF POW/MIA FAMILY MEMBERS ASSEMBLED AT CONSTITUTION HALL. THAT TIME, WE SPOKE TO A GROUP OF ABOUT 20 PEOPLE AND IT WAS THEN THAT I DECIDED THAT THE NEXT TIME WE MET, WE WOULD FILL CONSTITUTION HALL. TWO MONTHS LATER, IN MAY, 1969, WE PACKED THE HALL, AND WORKING TOGETHER TOOK OUR MESSAGE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. WE SAW OUR CONCERN FOR AMERICANS MISSING-IN-ACTION BECOME A NATIONAL ISSUE.

SINCE THAT TIME, WITH YOUR SUPPORT, AND THE SUPPORT OF MY COLLEAGUES, I WAS ABLE TO PASS LEGISLATION FOR A NATIONAL DAY OF RECOGNITION FOR OUR MIAs. IN 1989, WE WERE SUCCESSFUL IN PASSING A RESOLUTION THAT ENSURED THE DISPLAY OF YOUR POW/MIA FLAG IN THE CAPITOL ROTUNDA UNTIL A SATISFACTORY ACCOUNTING OF OUR SOUTHEAST ASIA POWs AND MIAs HAS TAKEN PLACE. THAT FLAG STANDS THERE TODAY AS A REMINDER TO THE CONGRESS AND THE MANY VISITORS TO OUR CAPITOL THAT THE UNITED STATES DEMANDS TO KNOW THE WHEREABOUTS OF HER MISSING SONS.

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