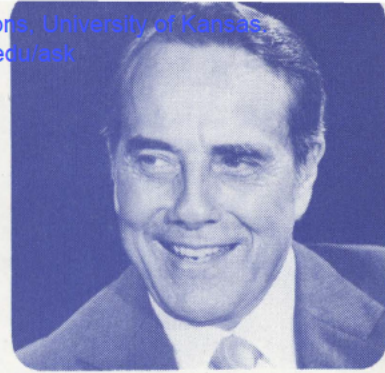


BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

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CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-5358

DOLE TO DELIVER VFW CARE PACKAGES TO U.S. TROOPS IN SAUDI ARABIA;

WILL ALSO BRING KANSAS KITE TO FLY ON "WINDS OF PEACE"

WASHINGTON -- WHEN SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE LEAVES FOR SAUDI ARABIA TONIGHT TO JOIN PRESIDENT BUSH FOR A THANKSGIVING VISIT WITH U.S. TROOPS, HE WILL BE BRINGING ALONG HUNDREDS OF SPECIAL CARE PACKAGES AND A KITE SIGNED BY KANSAS SCHOOLCHILDREN.

WORKING WITH THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS' NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN KANSAS CITY, DOLE -- A DISABLED WORLD WAR II VETERAN AND A MEMBER OF THE VFW -- ANNOUNCED TODAY HE WILL BE TRANSPORTING 600 GIFT BOXES FOR AMERICAN TROOPS IN SAUDI ARABIA. THE BOXES ARE PART OF THE VFW'S "OPERATION HOME TOWN" AND ARE FILLED WITH A VARIETY OF ITEMS DESIGNED TO MAKE LIFE A LITTLE EASIER AS OUR ARMED FORCES STAND GUARD AGAINST IRAQI AGGRESSION.

THE KITE IS A GIFT FROM "NO GREATER LOVE", A HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO HELPING THOSE WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES IN WARS OR BY ACTS OF TERRORISM. SIGNED BY SCHOOLCHILDREN FROM MARLATT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN MANHATTAN, KANSAS, THE KITE IS THE FIRST OF 50 INDIVIDUAL STATE KITES TO BE DELIVERED TO THE TROOPS AS A PART OF NO GREATER LOVE'S "OPERATION BRAVE HEART".

"NOTHING BEATS MAIL FROM HOME, SO I AM DELIGHTED TO HELP DELIVER THESE SPECIAL VFW GIFT PACKS TO SAUDI ARABIA. HOLIDAYS AWAY FROM HOME ARE TOUGH ENOUGH, BUT LIFE IN THE DESERT HAS MADE IT EVEN TOUGHER FOR OUR TROOPS. THESE BOXES WILL NOT ONLY HELP MAKE A SOLDIER'S LIFE A LITTLE EASIER, THEY WILL ALSO REMIND OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM THAT WE HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN THEM," DOLE SAID. "THE KANSAS KITE WILL FLY PROUDLY OVER OUR TROOPS, CARRIED ALOFT BY WHAT WE ALL HOPE WILL BE WINDS OF PEACE. THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS WILL BE PROUD TO KNOW THAT SCHOOLCHILDREN IN MANHATTAN ARE PROVIDING SO MUCH INSPIRATION TO OUR FORCES OVERSEAS."

"OPERATION HOME TOWN" IS A NATIONWIDE PROJECT DIRECTED BY THE VFW'S NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN KANSAS CITY. DONATIONS FROM CORPORATE AMERICA MAKE UP THE BULK OF THE ITEMS IN EACH GIFT BOX WHICH CAN BE SHARED BY AS MANY AS SIX SOLDIERS.

GIFT ITEMS INCLUDE: SUNGLASSES, GREETING CARDS, STATIONERY, AUDIO TAPES, MUSIC CASSETTES, ELECTRONIC GAMES, BOOKS, MAGAZINES, SHAMPOO, MEN'S SHORTS, SEWING KITS, ENVELOPES, AND T-SHIRTS FROM THE WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION.

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