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NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

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SENATOR BOB DOLE RECOGNIZES KANSAS FAMILY ON SENATE FLOOR;
TRINKLE FAMILY FROM LACYGNE PRAISED FOR SERVICE TO AMERICA

Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of a Kansas family that epitomizes the American tradition of duty and service. From 1940 to 1958, the Trinkle family of LaCygne, Kansas, stood up when America called. As our nation celebrates the 50th anniversary of World War II and our victory in the Cold War, it is fitting that we remember the many unsung heroes -- those that fought the battles and made the sacrifices that won the victories and made the history. In my view, one would have to look long and hard to find a family that has given more to our nation than the Trinkle family.

Fifty years ago, America was in a very different situation than we find ourselves today. By early 1942, the war that had already ignited the world had reached an unprepared and untested America.

The United States was in the fight, and the call went out for fighting men. In LaCygne, Kansas, the Trinkle brothers answered the call. In June, 1942, Arthur Trinkle graduated from high school and volunteered for service, joining his older brothers Henry and Vilas, who had already left for the Army. Although the policy at that time was to allow deferments for families with members already in the war, the three Trinkles were joined by their younger brother Joseph after his graduation. By 1943, the Trinkle home in LaCygne had four victory stars in their window.

On June 6, 1944, the Allies landed at Normandy and three of the Trinkles were there. Joseph landed at Utah Beach, and both Henry and Vilas fought their way ashore at bloody Omaha Beach. On August 15, 1944, Arthur landed with the Allies at Marseilles. From the beach-heads of France to the Battle of the Bulge, the crossing of the Rhine, and the march to the Elbe River, Arthur, Vilas, Henry and Joseph were in the front lines of every major battle in the French and German campaigns. Between them, the Trinkle family earned 17 battle stars from 1944 to 1945.

But the Trinkle family's service did not end with World War II. America needed soldiers to stand against Communist aggression and again the Trinkle family was there. Billy Trinkle served with the Occupation Forces in Japan, and Francis Trinkle served in Korea, where he spent nine months in a hospital from injuries - one of the many unsung casualties of the Cold War. The last Trinkle to serve his country was the youngest, Berle, who was in Germany until 1958.

Mr. President, you will not find the Trinkles in the history books. You will not find monuments to these seven men or those like their two sisters, Romona and Marion, who kept the nation running and the home fires burning while their brothers were gone. The Trinkle family never asked for favors - they went out and did their duty. In my view, the Trinkle family are all heroes. It is families like the Trinkles that make our Nation great. When I hear the masters of criticism cry that we as a nation can't hack it, I know better. As long as our nation has Americans like the Trinkles, I am confident that our nation will always have a future.

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