

*Bob Dole*



**NEWS**

**U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

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*Contact: Clarkson Hine*  
*(202) 224-5358*

## **TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT NIXON**

**WASHINGTON** - Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole made the following remarks on the Senate floor today:

All American presidents affect history in their own way. But few have made more history or shaped the history of their times more than Richard Nixon.

Today, I join with the members of this body and with millions of men and women across America and around the world in mourning the death of the 37th President of the United States.

Richard Nixon was a great student of history. If he hadn't personally met a world leader, he had read and studied his life. In fact, the last time I visited President Nixon in his home in New Jersey, I was struck by the number of biographies stacked on his desk.

There has been a great deal of discussion the past few days over how history will remember Richard Nixon. And I believe he will be remembered for a number of reasons.

As many have said and written, he will be remembered for his foreign policy accomplishments, and for his dedication to peace. In his first inaugural address, President Nixon said "The greatest honor that history can bestow is the title of peacemaker."

No doubt about, because of his efforts as President to improve relations with the then-Soviet Union, to bring China out of isolation, and to forge peace in the Mid East, Richard Nixon more than earned the title of peacemaker.

That is also a title he earned after leaving the White House, where he travelled the world, speaking on behalf of democracy, freedom, and peace. Many of us in this Chamber will remember how eloquent the President was in urging us to provide assistance to the eastern European countries as they took their first steps toward freedom.

I believe history will also remember President Nixon for his domestic policy achievements as President--achievements far less reported than his victories on the world stage.

A landmark Family Assistance Program, proposed with the assistance of our colleague Senator Moynihan...the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency...expansion of the food stamp program...an innovation called "revenue sharing" where federal dollars went to the cities and states...the Consumer Products Safety Act...an emphasis on strengthening law enforcement...all this occurred during the Nixon administration.

(more)

President Nixon also knew that historians would write of the events that led to his resignation from the presidency and there are some who are still unwilling to forgive him for Watergate.

But in the past few years, I think more and more Americans have come to appreciate President Nixon and his accomplishments.

In fact, as I travelled to a number of states this weekend, I was struck by the number of people who came up to me to share their sadness about his death, and to say how much they admired President Nixon.

They admired him not because he was perfect but they admired him because of his courage and perseverance. They admired his intelligence and his vision. They admired the fact that he loved his family. And they admired him because he loved his country.

Plain and simple, Richard Nixon believed in America. And whether it was facing an anti-American mob in Venezuela, or going toe-to-toe with Krushchev in the famed "Kitchen Debate," Richard Nixon always stood up for America.

This past January, President Nixon announced the creation of the Center for Peace and Freedom at the Nixon Library and Birthplace in Yorba Linda, California. And I believe a portion of his remarks serve as a lasting legacy for this remarkable America.

"Some are tired of leadership," said President Nixon. "They say (America) carried that burden long enough. But if we do not provide leadership, who will? The Germans? The Japanese? The Russians? The Chinese? Only the United States has the potential...To lead in the era beyond peace. It is a great challenge for a great people."

I believe history will reflect the fact that America is better prepared to meet our great challenge because of the life, the career, and the accomplishments of Richard Nixon.

I join with the members of the Senate in extending our sympathies to the President's daughters, Tricia Cox and Julie Eisenhower -- and to all members of the Nixon family.

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