

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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**AMERICAN LEADERSHIP...AND THEN SOME
SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE
REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY
COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES, THE CITADEL
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA**

Thank you, General Watts. It's a privilege to join the class of 1994, their parents, friends, and all members of the Citadel family.

This is my first visit to this historic institution, although I have long heard about its excellence from a number of sources.

As you know, my colleague, Fritz Hollings, is a proud graduate of The Citadel, and asked me to extend his greetings today.

But it was the invitation of South Carolina's senior Senator--one of most respected members of the Senate--Strom Thurmond--that brought me here today. Strom is a Clemson graduate, but he did tell me that he was Governor when the South Carolina legislature established The Citadel on December 20, 1842.

I've learned a great deal from Strom over the years, but one thing he never told me was that Citadel cadets are so knowledgeable about agriculture. I've been to hundreds and hundreds of farms in Kansas, and not one farmer has ever told me that his cows "walk and talk, and are full of chalk."

General Mark Clark

Another connection we share is the fact that like countless Citadel men, I, too, looked up to Mark Clark.

As you know, before he became president of The Citadel, General Clark commanded the United States Fifth Army throughout the World War II european campaign. As a young man, I was a member of the 10th Mountain Division of the fifth army. While I never met General Clark, every soldier knew that the man Winston Churchill called "the American Eagle" was firmly in charge.

"And Then Some"

After the war was over, another South Carolinian--James Byrnes--would help to rebuild europe as President Truman's Secretary of State. And I begin my brief remarks today by quoting this former South Carolina Governor and Senator.

Byrnes said, "the difference between average people and great people can be explained in three words--"and then some." The top people did what was expected--and then some...They met their obligations and responsibilities fairly and squarely--and then some. They were good friends--and then some. They could be counted on in an emergency--and then some."

The Difference Between Average Nations & Great Nations

I believe the words "and then some" could also be used to describe the difference between average nations and great nations. The top nations do what is expected--and then some. They meet their obligations and responsibilities fairly and squarely--and then some. They are good friends--and then some. They can be counted on in an emergency--and then some.

Perhaps the supreme example of this type of leadership occurred nearly 50 years ago on the beaches of Normandy--D-Day. And along with Senator Thurmond--who is a D-Day veteran--I will be part of a Congressional delegation travelling to Europe next month for ceremonies honoring the 50th anniversary of D-Day.

A Half Century of American Leadership

D-Day marked more than the beginning of the end of World War II. It also marked the beginning of what has been--under

Republican and Democrat presidents alike--a half-century of American leadership.

It was American leadership that rebuilt Europe after World War II.

It was American leadership that stood for freedom in places like Korea and Vietnam.

It was American leadership that stood guard in Europe and around the world throughout the long Cold War.

It was American leadership that has kept alive any hope for a lasting peace in the Mideast.

It was American leadership that kept Saddam Hussein from controlling the world's oil supply.

It was American leadership that has always prodded nations towards the path of freedom for all their citizens.

And throughout it's history, Citadel graduates have been part and parcel of the great tradition of American leadership.

The Sacrifice of Citadel Graduates

In fact, fifty years ago, those who sat where you do now knew that they soon might be on their way to Europe or the Pacific--and 277 Citadel men made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Over forty years ago, those who sat where you do now knew that they soon might be on their way to Korea--and 31 Citadel men died there for their country.

Twenty years ago, those who sat where you do now knew that they soon might be on their way to Vietnam--and 66 Citadel men have their names inscribed on the walls of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C, just as they do on the walls to the entrance of Summerall Chapel here at the Citadel.

The Costs of Leadership

Today, thankfully, there are no wars on the horizon. This is so only because of the willingness of your predecessors to put their lives on the line for freedom...only because of a half-century of American Leadership.

Has this leadership been expensive? You bet it has--both in terms of lives lost and money spent in battle and in standing guard during the long Cold War.

But has this leadership been worth the cost? Absolutely. The world is a safer, freer, and better place because of American leadership.

Those Who Question America's World Leadership

Today, however, there is talk around meeting tables in Washington, D.C, and kitchen tables across America, that fifty years of leadership is enough.

There are those who think that America must focus on fixing her own problems.

There are those who say that American soldiers should take orders from commanders appointed by the United Nations.

There are those who see America not as the leader of the free world, but just as another member of NATO, with no more or no less responsibility than any other country.

There are those who believe that "and then some" is far, far, too much.

Preserving America's Global Leadership

That same talk and those same voices could also be heard in the days following our victory in World War II. But America's leaders remembered then that they had listened to those voices just twenty years before--in the aftermath of World War I. And they remembered that America checked out of world affairs, retreated into isolationism, and slashed our defense--actions that would be proven foolhardy when a dictator marched across Europe and bombs fell at Pearl Harbor.

America's leaders remembered. And Presidents from Truman to Bush made the tough decisions, and they made sure that America remained the leader of the free world.

Let me share with you some words of the greatest foreign policy President of our time--Richard Nixon.

Just last January, President Nixon said, and I quote--

"Some are tired of leadership," "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."

President Nixon was right.

American Leadership Still Needed

The United States may be at peace, but events in North Korea, Bosnia, and elsewhere remind us that dictators still exist, that aggressors who are not stopped will only grow more brazen and more blood-thirsty, and that leadership--American leadership--is still required. And sometimes, that leadership will mean that Americans will make the supreme sacrifice, as Patrick McKenna, a member of the Citadel class of 1989, did on April 14, during Operation "Provide Comfort" in Iraq.

Is it America's destiny to be the world's policeman? No. There are crimes against humanity and crimes against freedom committed every day in countless countries across the world. And America does not go in, guns blazing, to make it right.

Leading by Example

Instead, we do what we have always done--and what we did during the long Cold War--we lead by example. We show the world that democracy is not just one method of government--it is the only method that allows individuals to reach their full potential. And we also lead by using our economic and moral influence to bring about change, as we did in South Africa.

And if we are to lead by example...If we are to maintain our credibility as an economic and moral influence, then we must deal with our problems--like the deficit and like crime. And we must remember and teach the values that made America great--values like decency, honesty, and individual responsibility.

Military Strength & Diplomatic Resolve

But let me be clear: leading by example will not always suffice. For military strength and diplomatic resolve is essential to successful leadership. Without them, our example--no matter how meritorious--will be rejected or ignored.

There will be times when America's interests are at stake... When freedom is threatened...when, like it or not, we are the only "cop on the beat." And unless we are prepared to stand by while our interests are threatened or destroyed, we must be prepared to lead--in combination with friends and allies if possible, but alone if necessary.

It is hard to imagine the world you would enter today had the attitude that some now advocate prevailed the past half-century. Imagine that D-Day never happened, and that Hitler's armies conquered Europe. Imagine that Khrushchev and not Nixon was the winner of the "Kitchen Debate," and America's children lived under communism, rather than Russia's children living under democracy. Imagine Saddam Hussein in control of the majority of the world's oil supply.

The Future & American Leadership

Class of 1994, I don't know what the future holds for you--but I do know that the world can not afford a future without American leadership.

It is my hope that fifty years from now, some members of this class will travel to Europe to attend the centennial celebration of D-Day.

And I hope you will be able to say then, what we have been able to say for the past fifty years. We are Americans. We are the leaders of the free world. And we will remain so for many years into the future...and then some.

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