

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE OFFERS CONDOLENCES TO FAMILIES, VICTIMS OF KANSAS CITY HOTEL DISASTER

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) offered his heartfelt condolences today to the families and friends of those killed in last night's hotel disaster in Kansas City, Mo.

"This tragedy has touched the lives of families in both Missouri and Kansas," Dole said. "Although the artificial boundary of a state line has precluded Kansas jurisdiction over relief efforts, Kansas City is a city built by citizens of two states, and I know that the prayers of thousands of Kansans have gone out in this time of need."

Dole offered the following statement this morning on the Senate floor as today's session began:

"As the Senate convenes this morning to resume consideration of the tax bill, I ask that we take a few minutes to reflect on the heartbreaking human tragedy in Kansas City last night.

"Shortly after 7, two elevated walkways inside an enclosed courtyard at the new Hyatt Regency hotel collapsed onto a ballroom of dancers. All night and into this morning the death toll has been rising, as rescuers dig through the rubble in search of survivors. The horrible death count now stands at 108, and promises to climb as the rescue effort continues today. Hundreds are injured.

"For the families, friends and loved ones of those who have been taken, we offer our meager but heartfelt condolences. The unpredictable and unexpected nature of this collapse shocks us all, and our thoughts go out to those who must now deal with the aftermath of injury and despair.

"As always, the depth of the human spirit flowers in these times of sorrow. This has especially been the case in Kansas City. When the call went out for blood donations, the response was overwhelming, far exceeding hospital needs. Thousands have selflessly donated their time and facilities to save and treat the injured. Working tirelessly through the night, city and state officials and volunteer organizations have responded magnificently. The people of Missouri and Kansas have displayed their native character.

"In coming weeks questions of cause and blame will dominate. But today, let us think of the lives which have been shattered and the rapid response of their neighbors."