

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas) SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1985

CONTACT: WALT RIKER,
DALE TATE 202/224-3135

STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
VIETNAM VETERANS RECOGNITION DAY
MAY 2, 1985

I AM PLEASED TO RISE IN SUPPORT OF S. J. RES. 128 , TO DENOTE
MAY 7 AS VIETNAM VETERANS RECOGNITION DAY.

ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT YET FULLY RESOLVED OUR NATIONAL DEBATE
ABOUT THE VIETNAM WAR AND OUR INVOLVEMENT IN IT, THERE IS ONE
ASPECT OF THE WAR ON WHICH THERE SHOULD BE BIPARTISAN, INDEED
UNANIMOUS, AGREEMENT -- THAT THE MORE THAN THREE MILLION
AMERICANS WHO SERVED OUR COUNTRY IN THE VIETNAM THEATER DID SO
WITH HONOR, WITH DISTINCTION AND IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH THE
HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF OUR MILITARY SERVICES.

SOME 57,000 OF THOSE SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN LOST THEIR LIVES
DOING THEIR DUTY. 2,400 OF THEM ARE STILL LISTED AS MISSING IN
ACTION, AND WE MUST CONTINUE TO DEMAND FROM THE COMMUNIST
AUTHORITIES IN INDOCHINA A COMPLETE ACCOUNTING FOR THEM. TENS OF
THOUSANDS OF OTHERS SUFFERED INJURY, SOME OF THEM PERMANENTLY
DISABLING INJURY, WHICH HAS ALTERED THEIR LIVES.

-2-

AND ALL OF THOSE WHO SERVED -- INCLUDING THOSE WHO WERE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO HAVE ESCAPED DEATH OR INJURY -- SACRIFICED GREATLY FOR THEIR COUNTRY, IN WAYS THAT ONLY OTHER COMBAT VETERANS CAN FULLY APPRECIATE. ALL OF THEM GAVE A PART OF THEMSELVES AND THEIR LIVES TO DO WHAT THEY THOUGHT WAS RIGHT. ALL OF THEM DESERVE THE RECOGNITION AND THE THANKS OF THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS FOR WHAT THEY GAVE.

IT IS NOT ONLY FITTING THAT WE SHOULD SET ASIDE A DAY TO HONOR THEIR SERVICE AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE DO SO. IT IS NOT SOMETHING THAT WE ARE GIVING TO THE VIETNAM VETERANS -- IT IS SOMETHING WE OWE TO THEM.

I COMMEND THOSE WHO HAVE TAKEN THIS INITIATIVE TO DENOTE MAY 7 AS VIETNAM VETERANS RECOGNITION DAY.

BUT, FAR MORE IMPORTANTLY, I WANT TO SALUTE THE MEMORIES OF ALL OF OUR VIETNAM SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN -- THOSE WHO ARE FALLEN, THOSE WHOSE FATE IS STILL UNKNOWN AND THOSE WHO HAVE RETURNED TO RESUME THEIR LIVES HERE AT HOME. LET US REMEMBER AND HONOR EACH OF THEM ON MAY 7 AND, INDEED, EVERY TIME WE REFLECT ON THE DUTIES AND PRIVILEGES OF BEING AN AMERICAN.

-30-