

REMARKS BY SENATOR BOB DOLE
SALUTE TO ALL AMERICAN VETERANS
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1985
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AUDITORIUM

BILL, I CAN ASSURE YOU IT'S A TREAT TO GET AWAY FROM THE
TRENCHES ON THE SENATE FLOOR AND COME DOWN HERE TO JOIN YOU IN
THIS CEREMONY. IT REMINDS ME OF R AND R IN THE ARMY--ALWAYS TOO
SHORT.

OVER THE YEARS, I HAVE WRITTEN AND SPOKEN MANY TIMES ABOUT
OUR NATION'S VETERANS. VETERANS' DAY IS A POIGNANT REMINDER OF
THE SPECIAL BOND BETWEEN OUR SOCIETY AND THOSE WHO SERVE AND
DEFEND IT. THAT BOND, IN FACT, SHOWS US WHAT SERVICE REALLY
MEANS.

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LABOR PLAYS MAJOR ROLE IN VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT

EVERY VETERAN I'VE EVER MET WANTED TO WORK, AND EVERYONE WHO IS ABLE TO HOLD A JOB SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO. YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES HERE AT THE LABOR DEPARTMENT HAVE CERTAINLY DONE YOUR PART BY HELPING TO BRING THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DOWN. AND YOUR APPROACH TO THE VETERANS' UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM IS A GOOD ONE AS WELL. KEEP THAT TREND GOING!!!

TITLE 38 IS A FINE EXAMPLE OF GOVERNMENT WORKING TO ASSIST VETERANS BY GIVING THEM PRIORITY CONSIDERATION FOR ALL JOB OPENINGS LISTED BY EMPLOYERS WITH LOCAL JOB SERVICE OFFICES. I KNOW OF NO MOVEMENT IN THE CONGRESS TO DO AWAY WITH OR DRASTICALLY ALTER THIS 50 YEAR-OLD SYSTEM, AND IF THERE WERE SUCH A MOVEMENT, I DON'T BELIEVE IT WOULD EVEN GET OFF THE GROUND.

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IN THESE CRITICAL BUDGET TIMES, IT BEHOOVES ALL OF US TO SEARCH CONSTANTLY FOR BETTER WAYS TO ACCOMPLISH MORE WITH THE SAME OR LESS RESOURCES.

I BELIEVE OUR EMPLOYMENT SERVICES TO VETERANS AND NON-VETERANS ALIKE CAN AND MUST BE IMPROVED. I'M CONVINCED THIS CAN BE DONE BY SETTING GOALS, AND USING MODERN TECHNOLOGICAL EQUIPMENT. THIS INCLUDES HIGH-SPEED COMPUTERS TO SEARCH OUT JOBS, MATCH UP PEOPLE WHO ARE OUT OF WORK WITH THE JOBS THAT ARE AVAILABLE, AND IDENTIFY SKILLS THAT ARE NEEDED BOTH NOW AND IN THE FUTURE SO THAT PEOPLE CAN BE TRAINED FOR JOBS TO MEET THE NEEDS.

GOVERNMENT HAS A ROLE IN HELPING VETERANS

AND I BELIEVE ALL OR MUCH OF THIS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED WITH EXISTING RESOURCES THROUGH BETTER COORDINATION BETWEEN AGENCIES SUCH AS THE LABOR DEPARTMENT, THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, THE

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT,
THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE--INDEED ALL AGENCIES THAT DEAL WITH OR
HAVE AN IMPACT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

IN CONCLUSION, LET ME JUST SAY TO AMERICA'S VETERANS: THANK
YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO OUR WAY OF LIFE. YOU BEST EXEMPLIFY
THE WORDS OF THOMAS PAINE, WHO SAID ... "THOSE OF US WHO WISH TO
REAP THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY, ... MUST UNDERGO THE FATIGUE OF
SUPPORTING IT."

TOGETHER WE MUST CONTINUE IN OUR DESIRE TO IMPROVE THE
QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL AMERICANS.