

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-5358

STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
OPERATION PRAIRIE STORM
COFFEYVILLE, KANSAS

WASHINGTON - SENATOR BOB DOLE (R-KS) ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT LAST NIGHT ON THE SENATE FLOOR:

THROUGHOUT AMERICA CITIZENS ARE FILLED WITH PRIDE SINCE THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF OPERATION DESERT STORM AND THE RETURN OF OUR BRAVE SOLDIERS. THIS PRIDE IS NO MORE EVIDENT THAT IN COFFEYVILLE, KANSAS, FROM WHERE I HAVE RECENTLY VISITED.

THIS SPRING, BILL MOFFITT, MANAGER OF FUNK MANUFACTURING COMPANY, CAME UP WITH THE IDEA BEHIND OPERATION PRAIRIE STORM. THE CREED OF OPERATION PRAIRIE STORM SAYS IT ALL: THIS "IS A CAMPAIGN TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE AND PRIDE IN THE CITY OF COFFEYVILLE. WE WANT TO WELCOME OUR DESERT STORM TROOPS HOME TO A PLACE MADE BETTER BY A PRAIRIE STORM, INSPIRED BY THEIR PERFORMANCE LIBERATING KUWAIT."

I PERSONALLY TOURED AREAS OF THE CITY WITH MAYOR ALBERT C. LIEBERT WHERE OPERATION PRAIRIE STORM WAS EVIDENT. THE RESULTS ARE IMPRESSIVE:

APPROXIMATELY 150 VACATED HOUSES HAVE BEEN TORN DOWN; SCORES OF HOMES HAVE BEEN REPAINTED -- WITH THE HELP OF 8,000 GALLONS OF PAINT DONATED BY THE SHERWIN-WILLIAMS COMPANY; THE COFFEYVILLE STATE BANK, CONDON NATIONAL BANK AND BANK IV HAVE CREATED A \$1 MILLION LOW INTEREST LOAN POOL TO ASSIST HOMEOWNERS WITH MUCH NEEDED REPAIRS; OVER 1500 VOLUNTEERS HAVE TAKEN TO THE STREETS AND POLICED ROADWAYS AND OTHER COMMUNITY AREAS FOR TRASH -- INCLUDING THE PLANTING OF TREES AND FLOWERS ALL OVER TOWN; STREET SIGNS AND FIRE HYDRANTS HAVE BEEN REPAINTED AND RESTORED; AND PLANS ARE IN THE WORKS TO CONTINUE THE EFFORT THROUGH THE YEAR BY AGGRESSIVE FUNDRAISING, A FALL "FUN DAY" SPORTS EVENT, AND A "SHOP AT HOME" CAMPAIGN DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

A NUMBER OF OTHER INDIVIDUALS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR GETTING OPERATION PRAIRIE STORM OFF THE GROUND: PAT MARSO, PRESIDENT OF THE CONDON NATIONAL BANK; GLEN WELDON, COFFEYVILLE CITY MANAGER; ARTHUR HYATT, CITY OF COFFEYVILLE; DAN KINNEY, PRESIDENT COFFEYVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE; HERMAN COLBERT, APTUS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES; AND BOB DOUGLASS, FARMLAND INDUSTRIES. AND THERE ARE MANY, MANY MORE WHO WOULD BE TOO NUMEROUS TO NAME.

THIS IS WHAT COMMUNITY PRIDE IS ALL ABOUT. THIS PROJECT IS A LESSON FOR ALL AMERICANS ABOUT WHAT WE CAN DO FOR OURSELVES IF WE PUT OUR MINDS AND HEARTS INTO IT.

I AM PROUD OF THE PEOPLE OF COFFEYVILLE -- AND THEY SHOULD BE PROUD OF THEMSELVES. WELL OVER 20,000 HOURS OF VOLUNTEER EFFORT HAVE BEEN EXPENDED AND THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS WERE PLEDGED BY AREA BUSINESSES TO ASSIST IN THE EFFORT.

IT IS REFRESHING TO SEE A COMMUNITY DO WHAT COFFEYVILLE HAS DONE. THIS IS THE REASON I HAVE COME TO THE FLOOR IN THE HOPE THAT OTHER COMMUNITIES WILL TAKE NOTICE AND PLAN THEIR OWN COMMUNITY PRIDE EVENTS. I SALUTE THE CITIZENS OF COFFEYVILLE AND THE SUCCESS OF OPERATION PRAIRIE STORM.