

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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**DOLE BILL WOULD AWARD BRONZE STAR
TO NAVY AND MARINE HEROES OF CORREGIDOR**

WASHINGTON - SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS) HAS INTRODUCED LEGISLATION TO "RIGHT A 50-YEAR WRONG" IN AWARDING BRONZE STARS TO THE BRAVE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS VETERANS WHO DEFENDED CORREGIDOR IN THE PHILIPPINES IN THE OPENING DAYS OF WORLD WAR II.

DOLE, A WOUNDED AND DECORATED COMBAT VETERAN OF THE ITALIAN CAMPAIGN OF WWII, SAID "EVERY AMERICAN WHO ENDURED THE NIGHTMARE OF CORREGIDOR AND BATAAN HAS EARNED SPECIAL RECOGNITION AND NATIONAL ADMIRATION FOR THEIR COURAGE AND SACRIFICE."

IN EARLY 1942 MORE THAN THREE THOUSAND SAILORS AND MARINES, UNDER THE COMMAND OF GENERAL JONATHAN WAINWRIGHT, ENGAGED IN FIERCE COMBAT WITH OVERWHELMING JAPANESE FORCES. AFTER THEIR CAPTURE IN APRIL 1942, AMERICAN FORCES WERE SUBJECTED TO THE ATROCITIES OF THE INFAMOUS "BATAAN DEATH MARCH". THOSE WHO SURVIVED THAT TORTUOUS ORDEAL WERE SUBJECTED TO BRUTAL IMPRISONMENT.

U.S. ARMY PERSONNEL WHO FOUGHT AT BATAAN WERE AWARDED THE BRONZE STAR, BUT DUE TO A TECHNICALITY IN NAVAL POLICY, THE SAILORS AND MARINES WHO BATTLED ALONGSIDE THEM DID NOT, WHICH SENATOR DOLE CALLED "A SHOCKING INJUSTICE".

"I HOPE WE CAN FINALLY RIGHT A TERRIBLE WRONG BY HONORING THE COURAGE AND LOYALTY OF THESE AMERICAN HEROES," DOLE SAID, "I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING THESE PATRIOTS RECEIVE THE TRIBUTE THEY SO RICHLY DESERVE FROM A GRATEFUL AMERICA."

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