

MEMORANDUM FOR THE BRIEFING BOOK

FROM: BILL WISECARVER  
SUBJECT: REGIONAL OFFICE DEDICATION CEREMONY

DATE: JULY 17, 1992 at 9:00am

VIPS: CONGRESSMAN NICHOLS  
SECRETARY DERWINSKI  
DR. STEPHEN LEMONS (Director-Central Area Benefits Admin.)  
DR. JERRY MAYHALL (Wichita Regional Director)

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:**

- 9:00 -- Presentation of the Colors (89th ARCOM Color Guard)  
National Anthem  
Pledge of Allegiance (WWI veteran - Charlie Vineyard)  
Invocation (Chief Charles Shunatona- Pawnee Indian tribe)
- 9:15 -- Welcome Remarks: Jerry Mayhall
- 9:20 -- KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Sectary Derwinski
- 9:30 -- **SENATOR DOLE**
- 9:40 -- Ribbon Cutting Ceremony  
Benediction (Chaplin Peterson of the Wichita VA)

**\*\* NOTES ON THE EVENT \*\***

(A) There will be a press conference after the ceremony, the Senator is invited to attend.

(B) NOTE -- There is a clinic one half a block from the new center that is currently being picketed by the "Lambs for Christ" anti-abortion group. There have been numerous arrests and regular traffic jams in the area -- plan for delays.

**INFORMATION ON THE NEW REGIONAL CENTER:**

The \$5.4 million in construction funds for the center were released in 1988, and construction was completed in late 1991. Additional subcontracting was used to install new telephone and computer systems. The VA moved into the facility on May 9th, 1992. The Center will administer all non-medical benefits to the entire State (e.g. Compensation, Pension and Education benefits). The Regional Office and Medical Center combined make Wichita the largest of the 10 Centers in the VA system.

The architects on the Regional Center was Gossen Livingston Assoc. of Wichita.

REMARKS OF  
SENATOR BOB DOLE  
ON THE DEDICATION CEREMONY OF THE NEW  
VETERANS AFFAIRS REGIONAL OFFICE BUILDING  
JULY 17, 1992

CONGRESSMAN NICHOLS, SECRETARY DERWINSKI, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. I WANT TO THANK DIRECTOR JERRY MAYHALL, AND THE ENTIRE STAFF OF THE WICHITA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO MAKE THIS DEDICATION CEREMONY SO SUCCESSFUL AND FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING SUPPORT OF KANSAS VETERANS.

THIS NEW FACILITY WILL MAKE THE WICHITA VA MEDICAL AND REGIONAL CENTER THE LARGEST IN THE VA SYSTEM. IT WILL HOUSE OVER 170 VA PROFESSIONALS TO HANDLE ALL COMPENSATION, PENSION AND EDUCATION BENEFITS IN THE REGION BY PROVIDING A ONE-STOP BENEFITS SERVICE CENTER FOR THE OVER 270,000 KANSAS VETERANS. WITH THIS NEW CENTER AND THE PROFESSIONALS THAT WILL WORK HERE, THE KANSAS TRADITION OF SUPPORT TO HER VETERANS WILL CONTINUE.

MY GOAL IN SUPPORT OF OUR KANSAS TRADITION TO VETERANS IS TO ENSURE THAT THOSE IN THE VA HAVE THE TOOLS TO DO THE JOB AND TO ENSURE THAT VETERANS CONCERNS ARE HEARD, AND ACTED UPON, IN CONGRESS. THAT IS THE REASON WHY I SUPPORTED THIS REGIONAL CENTER THROUGH THE RELEASE OF FUNDING DURING 1988, AND ITS COMPLETION AT THE END OF 1991. AND WHY, I AM HAPPY TO REPORT, THAT ON JUNE 12TH, 1992, THE DESIGN CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE DOMICILIARY AT THE VA MEDICAL CENTER IN LEAVENWORTH WAS AWARDED. AS IMPORTANT AS THESE FACILITIES ARE, THE CONCERNS OF VETERANS MUST BE ADDRESSED IN OTHER WAYS.

THAT IS WHY I INTRODUCED THE VETERANS TRANSITION ASSISTANCE BILL TO INCREASE BENEFITS IN EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS. THIS LEGISLATION IS DESIGNED TO AFFORD A WIDE RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR VETERANS. IT WILL INCREASE THE GI BILL BENEFITS TO THOSE WHO NEED IT NOW AND GIVE TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR THOSE WHO WILL SOON BE IN THE CIVILIAN JOB MARKET. IT WILL ALSO GIVE PREFERENCE TO VETERANS IN THE JOB TRAINING PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM AND MAKE IT EASIER FOR FIRST TIME VETERAN HOME BUYERS TO PURCHASE A HOME. I HAVE ALSO INTRODUCED THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE EDUCATION BILL TO CREATE PROGRAMS FOR TRAINING VETERANS FOR THE CLEAN UP OF OUR NATION'S ENVIRONMENT.

TO SUPPORT VETERANS STILL SERVING, I WAS PROUD TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO AMEND THE VETERANS REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS LAW TO INCLUDE THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE RESERVE AND NATIONAL GUARD WHO HAD BEEN EXCLUDED BY THE PRIOR LAW.

IN MY VIEW, IT IS IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST THAT VETERANS USE THEIR TALENTS AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR -- THESE MEN AND WOMEN ARE PROVEN PRODUCERS -- THEY DON'T WANT HANDOUTS -- THEY WANT A CHANCE.

VETERANS CONCERNS TAKE IN A WIDE SPECTRUM. WE MUST ENSURE THAT THERE WILL BE QUALITY MEDICAL CARE IN THE YEARS TO COME, AND THAT LONG TERM CARE WILL BE PROVIDED TO THOSE VETERANS WHO NEED IT. WE MUST ENSURE THAT COMPENSATION AND PENSION BENEFITS REFLECT THE NEEDS OF VETERANS, AND WHY I SUPPORT AN AUTOMATIC COLA. WE MUST ENSURE THAT THE FAMILIES OF OUR NATION'S STILL MISSING-IN-ACTION HAVE A FULL ACCOUNTING FOR THEIR LOVED ONES, AND WHY I WAS PROUD TO HAVE MY BILL ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LIAISON OFFICE FOR THE MIA'S FAMILIES PASS THE CONGRESS. I HAVE WORKED WITH AND SUPPORTED THESE MISSING HEROS AND THERE FAMILIES SINCE COMING TO THE CONGRESS. SOME MAY FORGET BUT WE SHALL NOT.

OUR NATION OWES A GREAT DEBT TO VETERANS. OVER THE LAST 76 YEARS, THEY HAVE DEFENDED FREEDOM WHEREVER IT WAS THREATENED. FROM THE TRENCHES OF THE MARNE, TO THE BLASTING HEAT OF THE KUWAITI DESERT, AMERICANS VETERANS HAVE STOOD TALL AGAINST TYRANNY AND DESPOTISM.

WE HAVE WITNESSED THE END OF THE COLD WAR, BUT EVEN AS THIS EVENT RESHAPES THE MAP, DICTATORS AND STRIFE STILL MAKE OUR WORLD A DANGEROUS PLACE. TO THOSE THAT WANT SECURITY AND PEACE WITHOUT COST, I CAN ONLY SAY THAT FREEDOM ISN'T CHEAP.

BUT EACH OF YOU HERE WHO HAS SEEN WAR, OR HAD TO WAIT THE LONG LONELY HOURS FOR YOUR LOVED ONES TO RETURN KNOWS THAT. WE MUST ENSURE THAT AMERICA HAS THE STRENGTH AND THE WISDOM TO STOP TYRANNY IN ANY FORM. FOR THIS IS THE BEST WAY TO ENSURE THAT THE SACRIFICE OF VETERANS IN THIS CENTURY WAS NOT IN VAIN.

THIS NEW REGIONAL CENTER IS A CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO OUR VETERANS. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH SECTARY DERWINSKI TO ENSURE THAT OUR NATION FULFILLS THIS COMMITMENT IN YEARS TO COME.

THANK YOU.

# DEDICATION CEREMONY

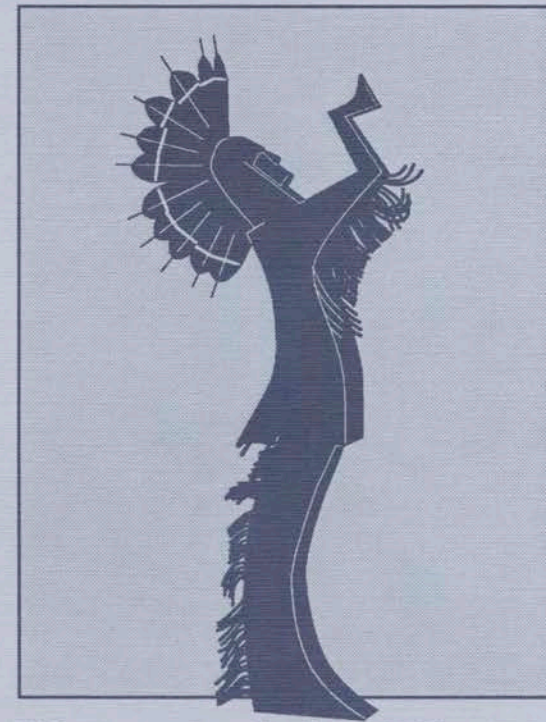
Regional Office Building

July 17, 1992



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Medical and Regional Office Center  
5500 East Kellogg  
Wichita, KS 67218

# WICHITA



*Keeper of the Plains*

## REGIONAL OFFICE DEDICATION CEREMONY PROGRAM

VAM&ROC  
Wichita, KS

July 17, 1992  
9:00 A.M.

Jerry E. Mayhall, Ph.D.  
Center Director



Master of Ceremonies	Thomas J. Pamperin
Musical Prelude	Midwest Brass Quintet
Presentation of Colors	89th ARCOM Color Guard
National Anthem	Kenniah
Pledge of Allegiance	Charlie Vineyard WWI Veteran/Wichita VAM&ROC, NHCU
Invocation	'Chief' Charles G. Shunatona Pawnee Indian Tribe
Welcome	Jerry E. Mayhall, Ph.D. Center Director
Introduction of Guests	

Keynote Address

Edward J. Derwinski  
Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Ribbon Cutting

Secretary Derwinski

Dr. Stephen L. Lemons  
Director, Central Area  
Livonia, MI  
Veterans Benefits  
Administration

A. Zamberlan  
Director, Central Region  
Ann Arbor, MI  
Veterans Health  
Administration

Dr. Jerry E. Mayhall  
Center Director

Benediction

Chaplain M. Peterson  
VAM&ROC, Wichita

Retiring of Colors

89th ARCOM Color Guard

Musical Postlude

Midwest Brass Quintet

*Refreshments and Tour of Facilities*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Disabled American Veterans

The American Legion

American Veterans

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Paralyzed Veterans of America

American Ex-Prisoners of War

American Legion - Sedgwick County Council

VAM&ROC Wichita Credit Union

Medical Media - VAM&ROC, Wichita

Outdoor Plants by Nature's Way

## DEDICATION COMMITTEE:

Thomas Pamperin - Adjudication Officer, Chairman

Robert Quall - Veterans Services Officer

Barbara Fretwell - Chief, Social Work Service

Frank Tuminello - Chief, Voluntary Services

Danny Cross - Loan Guaranty Officer

Alice Schad - Chief, Library Service

Joseph Monsam - Vocational Rehabilitation and  
Counseling Officer

Jay Barnes - Assistant Director - Advisor





This document is from the collections at the Dole Archives, University of Kansas  
<http://dolearchives.ku.edu>

# Senator Dole

**REMARKS OF**  
**SENATOR BOB DOLE**  
**ON THE DEDICATION CEREMONY**  
**OF THE NEW VETERANS**  
**AFFAIRS REGIONAL OFFICE**  
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