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MARKING THE PLACE — Sen. Bob and Elizabeth Dole shared a laugh before his speech in front of the Veterans of Foreign War Hall today. Dole was presented with a stone post monument with an engraved plaque that commemorated his current visit and his World War II military service. The time between his being wounded

during World War II and today's visit spanned exactly 50 years to the day. From left, Norman Staab, former Russell VFW commander, Kansas state commander and national commander-in-chief, and Russell Townsley, former publisher of The Russell Daily News were among those on hand for the ceremonies. (Staff Photo)



"I LOVE AMERICA" — On the 50th Anniversary of his wounding in World War II, Bob Dole spoke for close to 30 minutes in front of Russell's Veterans of Foreign War Hall. Besides talking memorably about being home, Dole also spoke about his reason for running for the presidency at age 71. "It's not because of ambition, not because of some selfish ambition," he said. "It's because I love America." (Staff Photo)

Bob Dole Comes Home To Warm Winds of Russell

By ALBERT LIN

The wind was blowing, and the flags were waving, as Kansas Senator Bob Dole stepped up to the podium on a stage this morning outside the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6240 in Russell, the last stop on a multi-state tour during which he announced his Republican candidacy for president.

Before the outdoor rally, Dole accompanied by his wife Elizabeth and his daughter Robin, joined the people, who crowded the main hall of the post for a pancake breakfast.

Speaking during the outdoor rally, Sen. Dole said, "We all come from different places, but there's nothing like going home."

"Now why should Bob Dole think, coming from a small town, he has the audacity to go out and tell people he ought to be president of the United States."

"I think a lot of it lies with the people right here," Dole said.

Russell's people, including those in attendance, he said, were "the people who kept us in line, the people here who taught us discipline,

the people here who taught us honesty, the people here who taught us hard work, the people here who taught us to respect our parents, the people here who taught us to respect one nation under God."

Small town roots, Dole said, also helped him to learn that people need to make a difference in the world.

"That's been my goal ever since I've been in politics," he said.

Dole said, "I want to say thank you for all you've done for me."

About his upcoming campaign,

Dole, who tried for the presidency in 1980 and 1988, said, "It feels different this time around."

"We had a political earthquake last November, another opportunity for leadership."

The senator finished off on a patriotic note.

"I know America is the greatest place on the face of the earth, and I want to keep it that way, and I want to make it better for your children and your grandchildren."

"We are the leader of the Free World, and everybody looks to the United States for freedom and liberty and opportunity."

Afterwards, Dole thanked the members of the Russell High School band, who provided music for the outdoor rally.

Elizabeth and Robin Dole accompanied the senator on the stage.

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RUSSELL PANCAKES — Sen. Bob and Elizabeth Dole stopped by the pancake breakfast in his honor at Russell's VFW Hall this morning before addressing

the huge crowd of well-wishers who came from all over the nation to hear him speak to his hometown friends and family. (Staff Photo)

Lend an Ear —

"I know where to come home to, and I know where I belong."
— Sen. Bob Dole
April 14, 1995



WELL-WISHERS WELCOME — After addressing the huge throng of friends and well-wishers from the podium on the west side of Russell's VFW Hall, Sen. Bob

Dole moved through the crowd to visit and thank the many who came. (Staff Photo)

Dole Brings Campaign to Hometown

RUSSELL (UPI) — Senate Republican leader Bob Dole wrapped up a weeklong tour Friday kicking off his 1996 presidential campaign by returning triumphantly to his hometown on the 50th anniversary of his wounding in World War II.

Dole, shown by polls as the clear early front-runner among nine leading GOP candidates, told a breakfast gathering of several hundred supporters he was thank-

ful to be home but avoided in his brief speech any mention of campaign issues.

Dole, 71, clutching his war-crippled right arm several times in a stiff late-morning wind, instead focused on tributes to his townspeople and words of patriotic gratitude to his country.

"I know where to come home to, and I know where I belong," Dole declared.

His wife, former Reagan administration Transportation Secretary Elizabeth Dole, stood beside him in the gusting breeze. Directly before them sat a large white stone monument, unveiled only moments earlier by another Russell native, former Veterans of Foreign Wars Commander in Chief Norman Staab. The statue bears a plain bronze plaque with Dole's name in

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Bob Dole, Welcome Home!