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FROM: THE OFFICE OF UNITED STATES SENATOR BOB DOLE
NEW SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510
(202) 225-6521

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WASHINGTON, D.C., March 5 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole Tuesday co-sponsored two bills aimed at increasing disability benefits for former prisoners of wars.

The first bill provides that any disabled veteran who is a former prisoner of war shall be eligible for hospitalization and outpatient care.

"This bill," said Senator Dole, "will help those veterans who, years later, develop injuries or diseases because of their war-time imprisonment."

The second of the two bills would classify veterans who were prisoners of war for 90 days or more as having 100% service-connected disability. Veterans held prisoner for less than 90 days could be assigned a disability rating of not less than 30%.

Dole said, "Many veterans who have endured great hardships, such as survivors of Bataan and Corregidor, are presently being granted low disability ratings." He said, "This bill will help correct that inequity."

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