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247

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WASHINGTON, D.C., Nov. 11 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today said largely because of the accomplishments of America's veterans, protest marches, rallies, sit-ins and demonstrations can exist.

In a Senate statement, Dole said, "White crosses around the world in Verdun, Iwo Jima, Seoul and Arlington mark the resting places of those whose lives assured that the October Moratorium could take place," he added.

"Today amidst unprecedented exercise of the rights of speech, dissent and assembly, it is appropriate to channel some energy toward serving those whose sacrifices made these freedoms secure."

Dole, a disabled veteran himself, spent several hours visiting Kansans and others in the Veterans Administration Hospital here.

Urging others to do the same, Dole said, "It seems especially fitting that those who plan participation in the events of protest and dissent later this week would spend today visiting VA hospitals. It would bring incalculable brightness into the lives of the servicemen. The visitors might also learn more about the freedoms they exercise."