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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C., MARCH 3, 1971 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole today paid tribute to the Disabled Veterans' (D.A.V.) in a statement on the Senate floor.

Dole, a member of the D.A.V., said, "Since its founding on Christmas Day in 1919, the D.A.V. has faithfully served the veterans of every war involving American Armed Forces from the Great War to the present Southeast Asian conflict."

The Kansas Senator called the record of the D.A.V., "truly impressive" but focused attention on the organization's role now and in the future.

"One of the great tragedies of our involvement in the Vietnam War is the unprecedented number of maimed and crippled young men it is returning to our shores," Dole said. "The airborne ambulances and hospital ships are being filled with solemn reminders both of the unusually large numbers of wounded which the booby traps and mines of a guerrilla war produce and of the tremendous advances in battlefield medicine that are saving many lives which have been lost in earlier wars. Our Nation is faced by the dual factors of having more war injuries and disabilities inflicted upon our fighting men and at the same time having more serious battlefield casualties saved and brought home as seriously disabled."

"The challenge to America is clear. We must act to insure that these men, these heroes, are provided the utmost care, counseling and assistance our medical technological and governmental systems can provide. Every American has special obligations to insist that this country meets its responsibilities to the newly disabled of the Vietnam War. But the Disabled American Veterans has a special opportunity to insure that the people's voice is heard and our men's cause upheld. Knowing the D.A.V. as I do, I am confident that they will meet this challenge with the courage, energy and success which have characterized their efforts for the past half century.