



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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## DOLE INTRODUCES BILL TO AID POW FAMILIES

WASHINGTON, D.C.--In an effort to alleviate hardship on the families of men who died in captivity in North Vietnam, Senator Bob Dole today introduced the Funeral Transportation and Living Expense Benefits Act of 1974.

Recalling the government's gracious and generous effort to accommodate the families of the 556 POWs who were released by Hanoi in 1973, by flying them from distant cities for reunions, Dole asked that the same treatment be accorded families of the 23 servicemen whose remains have been released by Hanoi in the last two weeks. Families now face the prospect of bearing the entire cost of traveling to Washington, D.C. from their home cities for burial services at Arlington National Cemetery or other sites families might choose.

Calling the earlier government courtesies fitting, Dole said, "However, it now appears that standard military regulations and requirements may work an unfortunate hardship on POW families who were not among those whose joy we shared last year. There is no authority to provide other than the standard military death benefits to the families of prisoners who died while in captivity."

Dole said he hoped the bill would "in some small way accord appropriate courtesies to the families of our prisoners who died in captivity and whose remains will be returned for burial in accordance with the Paris Peace Agreements of 1973."