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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

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SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 1974

DOLE BILL FOR POW FAMILIES BECOMES LAW

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- Senator Bob Dole's bill providing travel and living expenses for families attending the funerals of American POW's who died in captivity has become law. The bill, authored by Senator Dole and passed by the Senate on March 22, was signed by the President late yesterday.

"I believe we have done the right and appropriate thing," Senator Dole said. "Such fine recognition was extended to the more than 500 POWs who returned home alive last year. And we could not have allowed military red tape and regulations to mar the Nation's tribute to the equally brave and heroic Americans who died while in captivity."

The new law directs the Secretary of Defense to provide round trip transportation, living expenses and other benefits to enable servicemen's families to attend funerals at the locations chosen for burial. As one example of its operation, the law will help a family from Sacramento, California, attend funeral services at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D. C.

In accordance with the 1973 Vietnam Peace Agreement, Hanoi, this month, released the remains of 23 deceased Americans and acknowledges holding the remains of 32 others.