

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE ANNOUNCES PRELIMINARY FIRE SAFETY CONSTRUCTION FUNDS
FOR TOPEKA'S COLMERY-O'NEIL VA HOSPITAL

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole today announced the approval of the first step of an important safety construction project for Topeka's Colmery-O'Neil VA Medical Center. The project is designed to correct safety and fire deficiencies in several buildings at the Topeka site.

"I am pleased that there has finally been some action taken to correct the fire safety deficiencies at Colmery-O'Neil," said Senator Dole.

The Kansas Senator said today that an architect/engineer contract for \$148,664 has been approved by the Veterans Administration with the Lenexa firm of George Butler Associates. The project will be included as part of the VA's Advance Planning Fund, and will be considered for inclusion in a future fiscal year budget.

Dole first took action on the safety issue after receiving a special field report prepared by the American Legion in July which alleged inadequacies in fire safety. On July 29, Senator Dole sent a letter and the Legion report to Veterans Administrator Harry N. Walters. Dole directed Walters to immediately look into the matter. Mr. Walters responded that a full report would be on Senator Dole's desk within a few weeks. The Veterans Administration then sent an on-site inspection team to tour Colmery-O'Neil.

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