

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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BOB AND ELIZABETH DOLE TO JOIN "DARTH VADER"
IN CEREMONY HONORING THE CONTRIBUTION OF AMERICAN YOUTH
TO PREVENTING DISABLING ACCIDENTS ON MONDAY

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole and Transportation Secretary Elizabeth Dole will make a rare joint appearance at a ceremony honoring the millions of young Americans who contribute to the prevention of disabilities through safety on Monday, September 10. British actor David Prowse (Star Wars' "Darth Vader"), Special Ambassador for the International Decade of Disabled Persons, will assist Secretary Dole in presenting the awards.

"Nearly three million Americans are injured in traffic accidents each year. Of these, 172,000 are seriously injured and disabled. More than 18,920 are children. As a cosponsor of the Congressional resolution proclaiming 1983-1992 the National Decade of Disabled Persons, I want to take this opportunity to focus attention on prevention. Preventing disabilities from occurring in the future is one of the nine goals of the Decade. One major source of such disabilities is traffic accidents, a mutual concern of Elizabeth and mine," said Senator Dole.

Awards sponsored by Avon Products, Inc. will be presented to three children who have made outstanding individual contributions: Diane Eberle, 17, of Wisconsin; Timothy Diakis, 12, of Virginia; and Michael Moss, 12, of New York. Also receiving awards will be young people representing millions of young Americans who are participating in the safety programs of nine national youth organizations.

Congressional endorsement of the Decade of Disabled Persons, sponsored by Senator Dole, led to a Presidential proclamation on November 28, 1983, officially designating 1983-1992 as the National Decade of Disabled Persons in the United States.

The ceremony will be held in Room 628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building at 3:30 p.m., Monday, September 10. Most principles will be available for photos and interviews in Room 628 from 2:30-3:30. A reception will follow. More than a hundred representatives of national youth, safety and disability organizations are expected to attend, as well as a number of Senators and government officials.