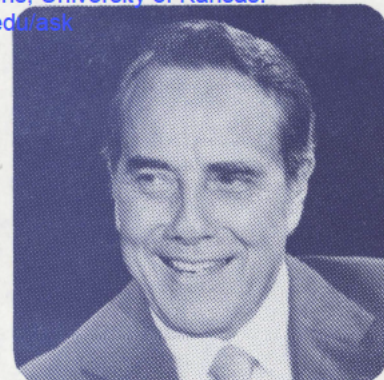


News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-1601

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 25, 1988

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DOLE RECEIVES LIFE SERVICE TO VETERANS AWARD ACCEPTANCE STATEMENT

FIRST I WANT TO THANK JOHN MICHAELS, NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA; AND JERRY YATES, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD AND FOUNDER OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS INSTITUTE; FOR THEIR KIND WORDS.

I ALSO WANT TO RECOGNIZE MY COLLEAGUES IN THE SENATE AND HOUSE; JACK POWELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF P.V.A.; AND CONRAD HAUSMAN, A KANSAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS INSTITUTE.

MOST OF ALL I WANT TO THANK THE MEMBERS OF THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA AND THE VIETNAM VETERANS INSTITUTE, FOR HONORING ME WITH THEIR FIFTH ANNUAL "LIFE SERVICE TO VETERANS" AWARD. EACH OF THE PREVIOUS FOUR RECIPIENTS - SENATORS BYRD AND CRANSTON, AND CONGRESSMEN MONTGOMERY AND HAMMERSCHMIDT - HAVE MADE ENORMOUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WELFARE OF VETERANS AND I AM VERY PROUD TO BE PLACED IN THEIR COMPANY.

MANY OF YOU HERE TONIGHT SERVED IN A FOREIGN WAR OR CONFLICT, TO HELP PRESERVE OUR LIBERTY AND FREEDOM. OTHERS MAY NOT HAVE SEEN COMBAT THEMSELVES, BUT WERE READY AND WILLING TO BE THERE IF NEEDED. THIS NATION OWES EACH OF YOU ITS RESPECT AND GRATITUDE.

OUR DEBT IS EVEN MORE TO THOSE WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE AND GAVE THEIR LIVES, THAT EACH OF US MIGHT BE FREE. WE OWE SO MUCH TO THEM, AND I DOUBT WE CAN EVER REPAY THAT DEBT. BUT WE WILL NEVER FORGET THEM.

AS A FELLOW VETERAN WHO SPENT SOME TIME IN HOSPITALS, I KNOW FIRSTHAND THE IMPORTANT ROLE THAT NATIONAL VETERANS' PROGRAMS CAN PLAY IN SOMEONE'S LIFE. MY OWN RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION WAS IMMEASURABLY HELPED BY THE DEDICATED STAFFS AND VOLUNTEERS AT SEVERAL V.A. HOSPITALS, AND I WILL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL.

AS A FELLOW DISABLED VETERAN, LET ME ALSO RENEW MY COMMITMENT TO TEARING DOWN THE BARRIERS THAT KEEP THE DISABLED OUT OF THE MAINSTREAM. I WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH YOU SO WE CAN SEE THE DAY WHEN "DISABLED" NO LONGER MEANS "UN-ABLE. WE RECENTLY RENEWED THAT COMMITMENT WITH THE PASSAGE OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS RESTORATION ACT OF 1987. BUT I'M NOT ABOUT TO SAY THE FIGHT IS OVER.

THIS IS A GREAT HONOR THAT YOU HAVE BESTOWED ON ME. EVEN MORE IS THE HONOR TO BE AMONG SO MANY OF YOU TONIGHT -- MEN AND WOMEN OF COURAGE, DETERMINATION AND INSPIRATION. FROM THE HEART, I THANK YOU.

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