

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## SENATOR DOLE HONORS YOUNG KANSAN FROM PAOLA FOR HIS COURAGE AND DETERMINATION

WASHINGTON - THE FOLLOWING IS SENATOR BOB DOLE'S (R-KS) STATEMENT HONORING FLETCHER REYNOLDS, A YOUNG MAN FROM PAOLA. SENATOR DOLE DELIVERED THIS STATEMENT ON THE SENATE FLOOR TODAY:

MR. DOLE. MR. PRESIDENT, FLETCHER REYNOLDS, A YOUNG MAN OF 21 WHO LIVES IN PAOLA, KANSAS, HAS CAPTURED MY ADMIRATION AND RESPECT, AND I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RECOGNIZE THE BATTLES HE HAS FOUGHT IN REACHING HIS PERSONAL GOALS.

WHEN FLETCH WAS BORN, THE DOCTORS TOLD HIS MOTHER, TINA MURPHY, THAT HE WAS SEVERELY RETARDED AND HAD TO BE INSTITUTIONALIZED. BUT TINA REFUSED AND SOUGHT OUT ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS FOR HIM - SHE WAS DETERMINED TO DEFY THE PREDICTION OF A GLOOMY FUTURE.

EARLY ON, HE ENTERED A PROGRAM FOR SPEECH THERAPY. SHORTLY, IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT HE HAD CONGENITAL CATARACTS AND WAS COMPLETELY BLIND IN ONE EYE. THEN HE BEGAN TO HAVE SEIZURES.

### LAKEMARY CENTER

AT THE AGE OF 3 1/2, FLETCH ENTERED LAKEMARY CENTER IN PAOLA WHERE HE REMAINED THROUGH THE FIFTH GRADE. I RECALL DEDICATING THE LAKEMARY CENTER IN 1970, A COMPLEX THAT TODAY INCLUDES AN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, A SCHOOL, RESIDENCES FOR CHILDREN, JOB TRAINING AND PLACEMENT, AND SCATTERED HOMES FOR ADULTS IN THE PAOLA AND OLATHE COMMUNITIES.

UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF DR. PATRICE SCHMITZ, PRESIDENT, THE URSULINE SISTERS HAVE DEVELOPED A HIGHLY RESPECTED PROGRAM TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR DISABLED INDIVIDUALS, MAKING THEM PRODUCTIVE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY WHO AIM TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY, PERFORM COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT, AND PAY FOR THEIR OWN NEEDS.

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

FLETCH MADE REMARKABLE PROGRESS AND, FROM 5TH GRADE ON, CONTINUED HIS EDUCATION IN A SPECIAL PROGRAM IN THE PAOLA PUBLIC SCHOOLS. AGAIN, HE WAS FORTUNATE TO HAVE GOOD TEACHERS, GOOD PROGRAMS, GOOD FRIENDS, AND A CARING FAMILY. HE WAS ULTIMATELY MAINSTREAMED IN SOME CLASSES AND GRADUATED FROM GARDNER-EDGERTON HIGH SCHOOL.



WHIZ KID OF TASTY FROZEN

UNDER THE JOB TRAINING AND PLACEMENT PROGRAM AT LAKEMARY HEADED BY SISTER CARLEEN RICHARDS, FLETCH THRIVED, ACCORDING TO HIS MOTHER. HE DEVELOPED JOB SKILLS AND LEARNED TO TAKE CARE OF HIS PERSONAL NEEDS. IN HIS FIRST JOB AT THE TASTY FROZEN PLANT IN LENEXA, KANSAS, HE WAS KNOWN AS THE "WHIZ KID OF TASTY FROZEN," SETTING A RECORD FOR THE NUMBER OF BREAD ROLLS TWISTED PER MINUTE.

SUBSEQUENTLY, FLETCH WAS HIRED AND TRAINED BY THE DILLON STORES WHERE HE NOW WORKS AS A GROCERY SACKER 30 HOURS PER WEEK.

FROM 1 TO 1 MILLION

FLETCH THRIVES ON CHALLENGES, AS HE GRAPHICALLY DEMONSTRATED RECENTLY, WHEN HE COMPLETED A 2 1/2 YEAR PROJECT WHICH INVOLVED WRITING EACH NUMBER FROM ONE TO ONE MILLION IN SEQUENTIAL ORDER. IN A CONTEST INSTIGATED BY HIS 19-YEAR-OLD BROTHER, CHRIS, HE FILLED 18 NOTEBOOKS WITH THIS LIST OF NUMBERS. FLETCH HAS ONCE MORE SHOWN HIS DETERMINATION TO SET GOALS AND MEET THEM.

GOALS ARE THE KEY

AGAIN AND AGAIN, WE SEE EXAMPLES OF GOALS BEING SET AND SUCCESSES ACHIEVED. FLETCH IS DETERMINED TO BE A PRODUCTIVE WORKER AND LIVE INDEPENDENTLY. HIS MOTHER WAS DETERMINED TO FIND PROGRAMS WHICH WOULD CHALLENGE AND ENCOURAGE EVERY BIT OF HER SON'S POTENTIAL. THE URSULINE SISTERS WERE DETERMINED TO ESTABLISH A CENTER FOR THE DISABLED. MANY CARING TEACHERS WERE DETERMINED TO GIVE FETCH ALL THAT THEY COULD.

AND, NOW, CITIZENS FROM THROUGHOUT THE NATION - AS DEMONSTRATED DURING A RECENT GATHERING ON THE STEPS OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL - ARE DETERMINED TO SEE THE "AMERICANS WITH

DISABILITIES ACT" PASSED AND SIGNED INTO LAW.

FLETCH LEADS THE WAY

FLETCH HAS SET AN EXAMPLE FOR ALL OF US. REACHING ONE MILLION REPRESENTS A TRUE ACHIEVEMENT AND REMINDS US THAT DISABLED AMERICANS ARE LEADERS IN

SPELLING OUT THE STEPS TO SUCCESS.

I SALUTE FLETCHER REYNOLDS AND ADD MY PERSONAL BEST WISHES FOR CONTINUED PROGRESS AND GOOD LUCK IN REACHING NEW GOALS. HE HAS MY APPLAUSE AND ENCOURAGEMENT.

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