

Please note:

*Bob Dole*



**NEWS**

**U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **DOLE SALUTES KEVIN SAUNDERS, KANSAS NATIVE**

**WASHINGTON - KANSAS SENATOR BOB DOLE TODAY PAID TRIBUTE TO KEVIN SAUNDERS, NATIVE OF DOWNS, KANSAS, ON THE SENATE FLOOR. SAUNDERS SET A NEW WORLD RECORD IN THE PENTATHLON EVENT AT THE PARALYMPIC TRIALS IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH. THE FOLLOWING IS DOLE'S STATEMENT:**

**I RISE TODAY TO PAY TRIBUTE TO KEVIN SAUNDERS, A NATIVE KANSAN AND A WORLD CLASS ATHLETE, WHO SET A NEW WORLD RECORD THIS PAST WEEKEND IN THE PENTATHLON EVENT AT THE UNITED STATES PARALYMPIC TRIALS IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH. KEVIN SCORED 4249 POINTS SHATTERING THE EXISTING RECORD OF 4160 BY 89 POINTS.**

**THE PENTATHLON INCLUDES THE SHOT PUT, JAVELIN, 1500 METER AND 200 METER RACES AND I AM PROUD TO SAY THAT THIS TALENTED KANSAN WILL BE REPRESENTING THE UNITED STATES ON THE U.S. PARALYMPIC TEAM IN BARCELONA, SPAIN, IN EARLY SEPTEMBER.**

**PARALYZED ELEVEN YEARS AGO IN A GRAIN ELEVATOR EXPLOSION, KEVIN IS AN INSPIRATIONAL YOUNG MAN WHO HAS OVERCOME ADVERSITY AND BEATEN ALL THE ODDS TO BECOME ONE OF THE PREMIER ATHLETES IN THE WORLD.**

**WHEN I THINK OF DETERMINATION AND LEADERSHIP, THE NAME KEVIN SAUNDERS CERTAINLY COMES TO MIND. HE IS TRULY A REMARKABLE PERSON AND A SENSATIONAL ROLE MODEL FOR AMERICA'S YOUTH.**

**KEVIN IS FOUNDER OF THE "WHEELCHAIR SUCCESS FUND", DEVELOPED TO GIVE OTHER WHEELCHAIR BOUND INDIVIDUALS THE SUPPORT THEY NEED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR COMMUNITIES AND REACH THEIR FULLEST POTENTIAL. KEVIN'S ALTRUISM DOESN'T STOP THERE. EVEN WITH HIS RIGOROUS OLYMPIC TRAINING SCHEDULE, KEVIN HAS TOURED NATIONWIDE SPREADING HIS MESSAGE OF STRENGTH AND HOPE.**

**AS KEVIN SAUNDERS CONTINUES TO REACH NEW HIGHS, I KNOW MY COLLEAGUES WILL JOIN ME IN SALUTING HIM AS HE GOES FOR THE GOLD.**

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