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NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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**U.S. SENATE PASSES DOLE LEGISLATION DESIGNATING
TOPEKA'S MONROE SCHOOL A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**

WASHINGTON - THE U.S. SENATE LATE THURSDAY NIGHT PASSED THE CIVIL RIGHTS IN EDUCATION NATIONAL HISTORIC ACT OF 1992, LEGISLATION AUTHORED BY KANSAS SENATORS BOB DOLE AND NANCY KASSEBAUM TO DESIGNATE THE MONROE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN TOPEKA, KANSAS, A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE. THE MONROE SCHOOL IS NOTED FOR ITS INVOLVEMENT IN THE LANDMARK BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION CASE, WHICH STRUCK DOWN RACIAL SEGREGATION IN AMERICA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

"THIS LEGISLATION WILL ENABLE THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TO BUY THE MONROE SCHOOL AND MANAGE IT AS AN HISTORIC ATTRACTION TO TELL THE IMPORTANT CIVIL RIGHTS STORY OF THIS HISTORY-MAKING CASE. TO ENSURE THAT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BROWN CASE IS NEVER FORGOTTEN, THE MONROE SCHOOL WILL SERVE AS AN INSPIRATION FOR GENERATIONS TO COME," SAID DOLE.

THE KANSAS SENATORS INTRODUCED THE LEGISLATION IN JUNE, 1992. IN AUGUST OF 1992, CHERYL BROWN HENDERSON, DAUGHTER OF THE REV. OLIVER L. BROWN, TESTIFIED IN FAVOR OF THE LEGISLATION BEFORE THE PUBLIC LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SENATE ENERGY COMMITTEE. IN 1951, REV. BROWN JOINED WITH TWELVE OTHER FAMILIES TO FILE SUIT AGAINST THE LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE LANDMARK CASE IS NOW KNOWN AS BROWN VS THE BOARD OF TOPEKA.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MUST NOW APPROVE THE BILL BEFORE IT IS SENT TO THE PRESIDENT TO BE SIGNED INTO LAW.

IN NOVEMBER 1991, SENATORS DOLE AND KASSEBAUM WON APPROVAL FROM THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR TO DESIGNATE THE MONROE SCHOOL A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK, THEREBY PROTECTING THE SCHOOL BUILDING. IN ADDITION, THE KANSAS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REQUESTED A FEASIBILITY STUDY BE DONE BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TO DETERMINE THE RELEVANCY FOR PRESERVING THE SCHOOL SITE. THE PARK SERVICE CONCLUDED THAT THE SITE WAS BOTH SUITABLE AND FEASIBLE FOR DEVELOPMENT AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE.

SENATOR DOLE ATTENDED THE DEDICATION OF THE MONROE SCHOOL AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK ON MAY 17, 1992.

SENATOR DOLE HAS ALSO INCLUDED LANGUAGE IN THE FY1993 INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS BILL TO INSTRUCT THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TO FUND A GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ESTABLISHING THE MONROE SCHOOL AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE. THE FUNDING WILL BECOME AVAILABLE AS SOON AS LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING THE MONROE SCHOOL AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE IS SIGNED INTO LAW.

THE APPROPRIATION BILL INCLUDING FUNDS FOR THE GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN HAS BEEN PASSED BY BOTH THE HOUSE AND SENATE AND IS READY FOR PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL.

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