

Bob Dole



**NEWS
FROM:**

**U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS
SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

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SAUNDERS REAPPOINTED TO PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL ON PHYSICAL FITNESS

Kevin Saunders of Downs, Kansas, recommended by Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole and Senator Nancy Kassebaum for reappointment to the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, was sworn in today by President Clinton in a Rose Garden ceremony.

Kevin Saunders, the first disabled athlete to serve on the President's Council, was first appointed to the Council in 1992 upon Senator Dole's recommendation. He was named Best All-Around Wheelchair Athlete in the World in 1990, when he won five gold medals at the Paralympics. He started the Wheelchair Success Fund to give other wheelchair bound individuals the opportunity to participate in athletics.

He continues his service on the 20 member Council composed of Americans with outstanding records of leadership and community involvement in the fields of medicine, professional and amateur sports, physical education and training, and advocacy for physically disabled persons.

Florence Griffith Joyner, a triple Olympics gold medal winner in track and field and Tom McMillen, a retired professional basketball player and former congressman, were appointed by Clinton last June as Co-Chairs of the PCPFS.

"Kevin's accomplishments and many successes are known to both of us," Senator Dole said in a joint statement with Senator Kassebaum. "He is a tireless ambassador for the Council and an outstanding example to Americans -- able and disabled -- that hope, hard work and perseverance pay off. We are delighted this dynamic and inspirational Kansan will continue to help energize Americans to become more physically fit."

Kevin Saunders was paralyzed from the waist down in a grain elevator explosion in 1981, where he was a federal inspector for the Department of Agriculture.

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