



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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BARTLETT CARVED A CAREER OUT OF OLD VIRTUES

WASHINGTON -- Following is a tribute by Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) to former Oklahoma Sen. Dewey Bartlett, who died last night following a bout with cancer:

"Death has robbed me of a good and valued friend, and taken from the people of Oklahoma and the nation a public servant of rare distinction. For Dewey Bartlett is gone, and all who struggle to make politics a career of honor and selflessness must mourn his passing.

"He was an unusual politician, a man who refused to be pigeonholed and who never took the obvious or easy way out. He was a conservative whose vision of the future was strikingly true, a man who believed that the only thing worse than a hard heart was a soft head. And he brought to government a passion for justice within a society of maximum individual freedom.

"As a member of the Oklahoma State Senate, he was father to that state's vocational education system. As governor, he created the Governor's Full Employment Commission. He appointed Oklahoma's first black judge, and he met monthly with a youth advisory committee to bring into play the idealism and commitment of the young.

"Dewey Bartlett believed in building bridges: between black and white, young and old, business and consumer, government and governed. He carved a career out of old virtues -- bedrock honesty, a probing mind, a firm conviction that any problem could be solved, if only we could address it with all the resources at our command.

"He believed that America could still stand for something noble and attractive in the world. He believed that we could be self-sufficient in energy, and at the same time an example for others to follow.

"He believed that our day in the sun was far from over, that the raw courage which transformed the prairies of Oklahoma could yet resolve the festering problems that afflict us in this complicated and confusing world.

"Dewey Bartlett believed that we should strive to be all that we could be. His life exemplified the heights to which a capable and determined man could rise. He left Oklahoma a better place. But his passing leaves us all the poorer. To his wife Ann and his three children, as to the people of the state he loved so long and so well, I extend my deepest sympathy. We have all lost a man who meant much."