

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE ANNOUNCES PRIVATE SECTOR JOB PROGRAM FOR KANSAS VIETNAM-ERA VETERANS

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) today announced that he and Sen. Nancy Kassebaum (R-Kan.) will be spearheading a drive to commit Kansas businesses to hire eligible Vietnam veterans. The program, which is being done in conjunction with Vietnam Veterans Week, May 28 through June 3, is a week-long effort to commit businesses to hire a definite number of veterans for a period of at least one year.

"Memorial Day has traditionally been a holiday when America honors its veterans and acknowledges appreciation of their willingness to serve," Dole said. "This year, by Presidential proclamation, we will specifically honor the veterans of the Vietnam War. Since the end of this conflict, the Vietnam veteran has been quietly forgotten. His re-adjustment has been slow and difficult because he is struggling to be accepted into a society that would rather forget this period in our national history. Whatever feelings one has about our involvement in Southeast Asia, those who performed the basic duty of citizenship by serving our nation in wartime deserve our respect and help.

"I am asking the private sector in Kansas to take steps to help the Vietnam veteran find his place. There are no maximum and minimum requirements in the Jobs for Vietnam Veterans in Kansas program, no forms to fill out or deadlines to meet. This program is totally voluntary and will depend on the goodwill of Kansas' private enterprise to succeed."

As an extra incentive, Dole said, businesses may be eligible to take advantage of a new Targeted Jobs Tax Credit for hiring economically disadvantaged Vietnam veterans, under a provision added to the 1978 Revenue Act. The Jobs Tax Credit is an elective credit that applies to wage costs incurred by firms between Jan. 1, 1979, and Dec. 31, 1980, for certified employees hired after September 1978. The credit is equal to 50 percent of the first-year wages up to \$6,000, and 25 percent of the second-year wages, or \$3,000 and \$1,500 respectively. One of the targeted groups under this credit are Vietnam-era veterans under age 35 who come from economically disadvantaged families.

At the end of Vietnam Veterans Week the names of the firms that have agreed to hire veterans will be announced.

Businesses that wish to make pledges should call Sen. Dole's office in Kansas City (913-287-4545), Topeka (913-295-2745), Wichita (316-263-4956), or Parsons (316-421-5380), or Sen. Kassebaum's offices in Garden City (316-276-3423) or Wichita (316-264-4695).

Once pledges are obtained, they will be turned over to the Non-Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA) for processing. NCOA has long been involved and successful in finding employment for veterans all across the country. They will be working closely with other Veteran Service Organizations and local Job Service Centers in matching Kansas Vietnam veterans to jobs.

"I hope that this project will result in an overwhelming demonstration of our appreciation for the veterans who have waited too long to be part of our society," Dole said.