

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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ON SENATE FLOOR, DOLE ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF FOUNDATION
FOR THE HANDICAPPED IN KANSAS AND ACROSS AMERICA

TODAY IS APRIL 14. THIS DAY BRINGS SPECIAL MEMORIES FOR THE SENATOR FROM KANSAS, FOR IT WAS ON THIS DAY 38 YEARS AGO THAT I NEARLY GAVE MY LIFE IN THE SERVICE OF MY COUNTRY. ON THAT DAY LONG AGO, AN ENEMY BULLET ENTERED MY RIGHT SHOULDER, FRACTURING MY VERTEBRA AND INITIALLY PARALYZING ALL OF MY EXTREMITIES. I LOST OVER 70 POUNDS, MY TEMPERATURE REACHED 108.7 DEGREES -- I HAD MORE THAN A FEW TOUGH MOMENTS DURING MY 39 MONTHS IN HOSPITALS IN EUROPE AND AT HOME.

BY 1947, I HAD MADE ENOUGH OF A RECOVERY TO RETURN HOME ON MY FEET TO MY HOMETOWN OF RUSSELL. WHEN MY NEIGHBORS AND OTHER CITIZENS OF RUSSELL LEARNED THAT I WOULD NEED ADDITIONAL SURGERY, THEY ESTABLISHED A FUNDRAISING EFFORT TO HELP WITH THE EXPENSES. ONE PERSON GAVE A HUNDRED DOLLARS, I REMEMBER. ANOTHER GAVE A NICKEL.

I WILL NEVER FORGET THE HELP I RECEIVED FROM THE PEOPLE OF RUSSELL. I HOPE THAT IN SOME SMALL WAY I CAN PROVIDE HELP, AND HOPE, TO OTHERS WHO MAY BE IN SIMILAR SITUATIONS NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

I TAKE GREAT PLEASURE TODAY IN ANNOUNCING THE FORMATION OF THE DOLE FOUNDATION, A PUBLIC FOUNDATION ORGANIZED PRIMARILY FOR THE BENEFIT OF HANDICAPPED CITIZENS IN KANSAS AND ACROSS THE NATION. WE ALL RECOGNIZE THAT THERE IS A GREAT NEED IN OUR SOCIETY FOR BETTER EDUCATION, JOB TRAINING, AND JOB PLACEMENT FOR OUR HANDICAPPED AND LESS FORTUNATE CITIZENS. MANY OUTSTANDING PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN ENDORSED AND SUPPORTED BY THE CONGRESS. WHILE MY DEDICATION AND SUPPORT OF THESE PROGRAMS HAS NOT WANED, THERE IS MUCH THAT CAN BE DONE THROUGH PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS SUCH AS THE ONE I AM ESTABLISHING.

THE WORLD HAS CHANGED IN SO MANY WAYS SINCE THAT DAY LONG AGO IN ITALY. BUT THE SPIRIT WHICH MOVED MY FRIENDS IN RUSSELL TO HELP ME WHEN I NEEDED HELP -- THE HUMAN KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY WHICH GAVE ME HOPE THAT THERE WOULD BE BETTER DAYS AHEAD FOR ME -- IS AS MUCH ALIVE TODAY IN ALL OF US.

I COULD HAVE NEVER IMAGINED THAT I WOULD HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITIES I HAVE HAD. TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS AND TO PLAY SOME ROLE IN MANAGING THE AFFAIRS OF THE NATION HAS TRULY BEEN BEYOND MY WILDEST DREAMS OF 1945. IT IS MY HOPE THAT THE DOLE FOUNDATION CAN PROVIDE CLEARER FOCUS ON THE PUBLIC POLICY QUESTIONS FACING THE DREAMERS OF TODAY, THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW.

SO ON THIS DAY I SAY A SIMPLE THANK YOU TO MY FRIENDS IN RUSSELL FOR NOT ONLY HELPING ME, BUT TEACHING ME THE LESSONS OF A LIFETIME ABOUT HUMAN KINDNESS. IT IS MY HOPE THAT THE DOLE FOUNDATION CAN HELP PASS THOSE LESSONS ON TO FUTURE GENERATIONS.