

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 1985

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DOLE SELECTS ERNEST GARCIA FOR SERGEANT AT ARMS POST

WASHINGTON -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-Kan.) today announced he has selected Ernest E. Garcia to be the new Senate Sergeant at Arms. Mr. Garcia currently serves as the Deputy Sergeant at Arms. The appointment requires confirmation by the Senate.

"I am very pleased to announce this appointment," Senator Dole said. "Ernie Garcia has done an outstanding job as deputy and will do the same good work in his new position."

The Sergeant at Arms is the Senate's chief law enforcement and protocol officer. There are approximately 1600 employees under his jurisdiction and he is responsible for a \$75 million budget.

He plans and coordinates all visits to the Senate by the President of the United States and visiting foreign dignitaries; advises the Majority and Minority Leaders on all security matters affecting the U.S. Capitol, the Senate Office Buildings, and the personal security of the Members of the Senate. He also formulates and directs the implementation of all policies governing the security of the Senate.

Ernest Garcia was named Deputy Sergeant at Arms on February 26, 1985 by the Majority Leader. Prior to that appointment, Mr. Garcia served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense at the Pentagon, working closely with Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger on legislative affairs. In 1981, he was a special assistant to President Reagan at the White House.

Garcia was born in Garden City, Kansas in 1946, and holds residency in Wichita, Kansas. He attended Wichita State University and the University of Kansas, where he earned his undergraduate and two graduate degrees. Garcia joined the United States Marine Corps in 1966 and received his honorable discharge in 1972. He is currently an officer in the Marine Corps Reserves.

Ernie and his wife Ana Maria Graneros have one son, Felipe.

In the past, Mr. Garcia has held several key positions on Senator Dole's staff. From 1980-1981, he served as the Senator's Administrative Assistant in Kansas. According to the Majority Leader, Mr. Garcia is the first Hispanic ever to serve as Sergeant at Arms.