

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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SENATE CONFIRMS ERNEST GARCIA FOR SERGEANT AT ARMS POST

WASHINGTON -- The Senate today confirmed Ernest E. Garcia to be the new Sergeant at Arms. Mr. Garcia has served as the Deputy Sergeant at Arms since Feb. 26, 1985. The appointment will become effective on June 3, 1985.

"Ernie Garcia has been, and I know will continue to be, a fine public servant in his new capacity as Sergeant at Arms," Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole said. "It's always good to have another Kansan in the Capitol."

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

In addition, the Sergeant at Arms acts as the Senate coordinator for all official visits by the President of the United States and visiting foreign dignitaries. He 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. And he is in charge of all policies governing the security of the Senate.

Prior to his appointment on Feb. 26, 1985 as Deputy Sergeant at Arms, Mr. Garcia served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense at the Pentagon. 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 currently is an officer in the Marine Corps Reserves.

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

Mr. Garcia has held several key positions on Senator Dole's staff, including administrative assistant in Kansas from 1980-1981. According to the Majority Leader, Mr. Garcia is the first Hispanic ever to serve as Sergeant at Arms.