

News from Senator

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY

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STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
MEMORIAL DAY
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Today is Memorial Day, one of our most important national holidays and a day of special meaning to me.

Like many others here in the Senate, I am a veteran of war, and I know first hand of the pain and suffering it brings. And though to this day I bear a physical reminder of my own service in World War II, I also know that I have been infinitely more fortunate than so many of my comrades in that war, and countless thousands of others from other wars, who lie buried in cemeteries here at home and throughout the world.

These men and women have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and for the ideals it represents. In a very concrete sense, they have given to us and our children the freedom and the way of life which we cherish.

Indeed, our debt is so great that we cannot really begin to repay it. But there are three things we can do -- we must do -- to keep faith with them.

First, we must insure that the families they have left behind have an equitable chance to enjoy the fruits of our society. Even in an era of reduced resources, this task must remain among the highest priorities of our nation.

Second, we must rededicate ourselves to the ideals for which they fought and died -- the security of our nation, the freedom of our people, peace in the world. If we allow these ideals to be undermined or abandoned, we will have made a mockery of their ultimate sacrifice.

Finally, we must never forget what they have done.

Today, while we pay them tribute, both public and private, let us also pledge ourselves to this task -- that we not make this special day the only time each year when we remember and note what these true patriots have done. Let us be determined to put aside in our minds and hearts a moment each month, each week, each day, to recall their sacrifice, to offer thanks for their legacy to us and to honor their memory.