

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

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CONTACT: BRENT BAHLER
(202) 224-6521

DOLE URGES U.S. NAVY TO CARRY ON TRADITION
BY NAMING NEW SHIP AFTER KANSAS CAPITAL

(Washington, DC) -- Kansas Sen. Bob Dole has urged the U.S. Navy to carry on a tradition of having an American ship named after the state capital, Topeka.

Dole recommended to Navy Secretary John Lehman that a new ship in the Navy be commissioned the "U.S.S. Topeka", bridging an 18-year gap since the last Navy vessel bearing the Topeka name was in service.

"Vessels bearing the name U.S.S. Topeka have played an important role in Naval history as early as World War I," Sen. Dole told Lehman. "All Kansans will be able to share a deep sense of honor and pride in the designation. I would appreciate your personal attention to assure that we have another U.S.S. Topeka under Naval command in the near future."

The first ship bearing the Topeka name was a Navy receiving ship in 1916. A light cruiser was commissioned the Topeka in 1944, and decommissioned four years later. In 1960 it was recommissioned for service in Southeast Asia until, in 1967, the U.S.S. Topeka was mothballed and later sold for scrap.

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