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TOPEKA'S TOM VAN BEBBER NOMINATED TO U.S. DISTRICT COURT

WASHINGTON -- SENATORS BOB DOLE (R-KS) AND NANCY LANDON KASSEBAUM (R-KS) HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED THAT G.T. "TOM" VAN BEBBER, CURRENT UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE IN TOPEKA, WILL BE NOMINATED TO SERVE ON THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR KANSAS. PRESIDENT BUSH HAS INFORMED SENATOR DOLE THAT THE NOMINATION WILL SOON BE SENT TO THE U.S. SENATE.

"THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION HAS GIVEN TOM ITS UNANIMOUS RECOMMENDATION," DOLE STATED. "HE IS RESPECTED IN THE KANSAS LEGAL COMMUNITY AND BRINGS EXPERIENCE AND JUDGMENT TO THIS DISTINGUISHED POST. I AM ENCOURAGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY TO MOVE QUICKLY TO SCHEDULE HEARINGS AND LOOK FORWARD TO SPEEDY CONFIRMATION ON THE FLOOR OF THE U.S. SENATE."

"TOM'S EXPERIENCE AS MAGISTRATE AND HIS LEGAL EXPERTISE MAKE HIM AN EXCELLENT ADDITION TO THE BENCH IN KANSAS," SEN. KASSEBAUM SAID. "GIVEN THE HEAVY CASELOAD IN OUR FEDERAL COURTS, I HOPE WE CAN MOVE QUICKLY ON THE NOMINATION."

VAN BEBBER, A NATIVE OF TROY, KANSAS, WAS APPOINTED U.S. MAGISTRATE IN 1982. PRIOR TO THAT, HE PRACTICED LAW IN TROY AND SERVED AS ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY AT TOPEKA AND KANSAS CITY FOR TWO YEARS. HE WAS ELECTED TO THREE TERMS AS COUNTY ATTORNEY OF DONIPHAN COUNTY AND TO TWO TERMS AS A MEMBER OF THE KANSAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. FROM 1975 TO 1979, HE SERVED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE KANSAS STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION.

HE WILL FILL A VACANCY CREATED WHEN JUDGE RICHARD ROGERS ASSUMED SENIOR STATUS.

A VICTIM OF POLIO AT THE AGE OF FIVE, VAN BEBBER, AS A YOUTH IN TROY, NEVERTHELESS PURSUED INTERESTS AS A NEWSPAPER REPORTER AND MUSICIAN. HE HOLDS UNDERGRADUATE AND LAW DEGREES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS. TOM AND HIS WIFE, ALLEEN, RESIDE IN TOPEKA.

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