

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 1989

CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-5358

DOLE HONORS POW MEDAL WINNER FATHER EMIL KAPAUN

WASHINGTON -- SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS.) TODAY PLACED THIS STATEMENT IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD REGARDING THE POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF THE PRISONER OF WAR MEDAL TO FATHER EMIL KAPUN, A WICHITA DIOCESAN PRIEST. DOLE ALSO ASKED THAT AN ARTICLE FROM THE CATHOLIC ADVANCE OF WICHITA BE INSERTED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
HONORING FATHER EMIL KAPAUN

MR. PRESIDENT, ON MAY 25, 1989, FATHER EMIL KAPAUN WAS POSTHUMOUSLY AWARDED THE PRISONER OF WAR MEDAL IN A CEREMONY AT KAPAUN MT. CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL IN WICHITA, KANSAS.

FATHER KAPAUN FIRST SERVED AS A CHAPLAIN DURING WORLD WAR II, AS WELL AS DURING THE KOREAN WAR. THOSE WHO SERVED WITH HIM IN THE KOREAN WAR DESCRIBED HIM AS THE BEST AND BRAVEST FOOT SOLDIER THEY EVER KNEW.

FATHER KAPAUN SET AN EXAMPLE FOR HIS MEN BY CARING FOR THE DYING, WOUNDED, AND SICK, FINDING FOOD TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNAL SOURCE, AND VOLUNTEERING FOR DUTIES THAT WERE UNPOPULAR WITH THE MEN. HE INSPIRED OTHER PRISONERS NOT TO LOSE THEIR DETERMINATION TO LIVE NOR THEIR DEDICATION TO THEIR GOD AND COUNTRY.

FATHER KAPAUN DIED AMONG THE MEN HE SERVED IN A POW HOSPITAL OVERLOOKING THE YALU RIVER IN 1951, AT AGE 35.

MR. PRESIDENT, I REQUEST AN ARTICLE FURTHER DESCRIBING FATHER KAPAUN'S LIFE BE PRINTED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

###