

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DOLE SAYS "THANK YOU" TO AMERICA'S GUARD AND RESERVE

Washington, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole (R-KS) announced today passage of a Senate Resolution thanking the National Guard and Reserve for their continued contribution and dedication to the nation's defense. The following is his statement:

EVERY YEAR WE SPEND ABOUT TWO WEEKS DEBATING THE DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL. MOST OF THAT TIME IS SPENT ARGUING FOR OR AGAINST SOME WEAPONS PROGRAM.

NOW, PROVIDING THE RESOURCES FOR THE DEFENSE OF THIS COUNTRY IS ONE OF THE GREATEST RESPONSIBILITIES WE HAVE AS UNITED STATES SENATORS. BUT, AS WE GET DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE PROS AND CONS OF SOME FIGHTER PLANE OR BATTLESHIP, WE TEND TO FORGET WHAT THE DEFENSE OF THIS COUNTRY REALLY RESTS ON: OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM.

MOREOVER, WHEN WE DO THINK ABOUT OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL, WE OFTEN OVERLOOK THE CONTRIBUTION OF OUR CITIZEN-SOLDIERS IN THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE.

MY AMENDMENT REMINDS US ALL OF THE GREAT TRADITION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE -- A TRADITION WHICH STARTED WITH THE BIRTH OF THIS NATION. MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT ALSO RECOGNIZED THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVE IN THE GUARD AND RESERVE ARE MAKING TO THIS COUNTRY.

THE GUARD AND RESERVE ARE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF OUR NATIONAL DEFENSE. THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE ENHANCE THE MILITARY READINESS OF THE UNITED STATES. AND, THEY DO SO IN A COST-EFFECTIVE WAY. THIS COST-EFFECTIVENESS IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT IN TIMES OF LIMITED RESOURCES.

I ASK MY COLLEAGUES TO TAKE A BREAK FROM THE DEBATE ON MILITARY HARDWARE AND DEFENSE POLICIES TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION THAT THESE MEN AND WOMEN ARE MAKING TO THE UNITED STATES.

I TRUST THAT ALL THE MEMBERS OF THIS BODY WILL JOIN ME IN THANKING THE MEN AND WOMEN IN THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE FOR THEIR LOYALTY AND SERVICE TO THIS COUNTRY.

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