

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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VETERAN'S DAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1989

WASHINGTON -- SENATOR BOB DOLE (R-KS) ISSUED THIS STATEMENT REGARDING VETERAN'S DAY:

TOMORROW, NOVEMBER 11, WE PAUSE TO HONOR VETERAN'S DAY -- A DAY THAT WE HAVE SET ASIDE TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE MILLIONS OF AMERICAN MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE PAID THE PRICE OF FREEDOM.

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN AMERICANS THOUGHT THAT THE FINAL PRICE OF FREEDOM HAD BEEN PAID IN FULL. YOU SEE, THIS DAY WAS ONCE CALLED ARMISTICE DAY -- COMMEMORATING THE END OF "THE WAR TO END ALL WARS". OF COURSE, THAT WAS WORLD WAR I.

BUT THEN CAME "VE" DAY, AND "VJ" DAY. AND ENDS TO THE KOREAN AND VIETNAM WARS FOLLOWED THOSE. LEBANON, GRENADA, AND THE PERSIAN GULF ARE ONLY THE MOST RECENT EXAMPLES THAT REMIND US THAT THE PRICE OF FREEDOM IS NEVER COMPLETELY PAID.

STILL, THERE ARE THOSE WHO SAY THAT THE THREAT TO FREEDOM IS NOW GONE. THEY SAY THAT BECAUSE OF MR. GORBACHEV THE COLD WAR IS OVER AND WE ARE SECURE. IT IS TRUE THAT WE ENJOY AN UNPRECEDENTED PERIOD OF PEACE -- AND WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THIS -- BUT THIS IS NOT BECAUSE THE THREAT TO OUR LIBERTY HAS MAGICALLY DISAPPEARED, BEEN TALKED AWAY WITH SPEECHES OR PROMISES, OR EVEN BECAUSE MR. GORBACHEV HAS DISCOVERED THAT COMMUNISM DOESN'T WORK.

WE ARE AT PEACE TODAY BECAUSE AMERICA IS STRONG. WE ARE AT PEACE BECAUSE OF THE DEDICATION AND SACRIFICE OF THE MILLIONS OF AMERICANS WHO SERVE IN OUR ARMED FORCES TODAY. AND AMERICA IS FREE BECAUSE OF THE MILLIONS OF AMERICAN VETERANS WHO HAVE PAID THE PRICE OF FREEDOM BEFORE THEM. IT IS THESE PEOPLE WE MUST THANK NOT MR. GORBACHEV.

THE UNPRECEDENTED EVENTS OCCURRING IN EASTERN EUROPE AND THE SOVIET UNION ARE A TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S PERSEVERANCE AND UNYIELDING COMMITMENT TO LIBERTY. I DOUBT THAT WE WOULD BE WATCHING THESE EXTRAORDINARY CHANGES IF IT WERE NOT FOR THOSE THAT WE HONOR ON THIS VETERANS DAY.

MILLIONS OF THOSE WHO SERVED THEIR COUNTRY MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE OF GIVING THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR COUNTRY. OTHERS WERE WOUNDED OR SUFFERED INJURIES THAT DISABLED THEM FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES.

AS FAR BACK AS THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS OF 1776, VETERANS BENEFITS PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED TO TAKE CARE OF OUR SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN -- AND THEIR FAMILIES.

THE SOLEMN PLEDGE OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN, MADE AT HIS SECOND INAUGURAL, BEARS REPEATING. HE CALLED ON AMERICANS "TO CARE FOR WHO SHALL HAVE BORNE THE BATTLE, AND FOR HIS WIDOW AND HIS ORPHAN."

PERHAPS THE GREATEST TRIBUTE THAT WE CAN PAY AMERICA'S VETERANS IS TO STAY THE COURSE THAT WE BEGAN AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS DECADE -- COURAGE, VIGILANCE, AND COMMITMENT. ONLY STRENGTH WILL KEEP US FREE BECAUSE THE PRICE OF FREEDOM IS NEVER PAID.

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