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March 5, 1991

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SENATOR DOLE RECEIVES FIRST ANNUAL
PURPLE HEART "FREEDOM AWARD"

WASHINGTON - SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KANSAS) RECEIVED THE FIRST ANNUAL MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART "FREEDOM AWARD" AT A CEREMONY THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH ON CAPITOL HILL. THE ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPTER 1964, OF THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART PRESENTED THE AWARD TO DOLE.

SENATOR DOLE IS A WOUNDED COMBAT VETERAN OF WORLD WAR II WHOSE DECORATIONS INCLUDE TWO PURPLE HEARTS. DOLE IS ALSO A LIFETIME MEMBER OF THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART.

FOLLOWING ARE SENATOR DOLE'S REMARKS UPON ACCEPTANCE OF THE AWARD:

"I would like to accept this award today on behalf of all the young men and women who have been wounded in the Persian Gulf. We're going to have some new members of our group. Of course, we never want any new members for our group: We don't want war. We don't like war. But we've been part of it and I've heard some of these critics saying, 'Well, there's nothing worth fighting for. There's nothing worth being wounded for. There's nothing worth dying for.'"

"Well, that's not the attitude of the men and women wounded in combat, fortunately. It's not the attitude of the young men and women in the Gulf either. Because, if there hadn't been men and women in the last couple hundred of years willing to lay down their lives, we wouldn't be here today in a free country, enjoying all the benefits we have in America. We're not perfect, but America is way ahead of whatever's in second place."

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-2-

"So I feel very honored to receive this award. When people see my lapel pin, they ask me, 'What's that on your lapel? What's that mean?' Most people don't know what it is. Let me tell you, I know what it is. It's sort of a security blanket, or a confidence builder, whatever. And if I ever leave it at home one day I have got to go back and get it. I can't work without it. So, I've got a few spares that have been in every desk I use, And I've given a few away, purple heart people who didn't have a lapel pin."

"I've made two calls to mothers in Kansas who have lost their sons; one is too many when it comes to casualties. I agree with General Schwarzkopf, 'They are never low enough.'"

"Still, when it's all said and done, I think America's smashing victory is going to restore alot of pride in America and it's going to make a lot of Vietnam veterans feel alot better too. I'm proud of our Vietnam veterans, especially for their show of support for our Desert Storm troops. Not doubt about it, they understand what it is to be ignored --and they were the ignored warriors in our lifetimes. So let's hope they will have a real resurgence in respect and pride now."

"America will recognize these young men and women coming back from the Persian Gulf. We will also recognize the Korean veterans, the Vietnam veterans, Grenada and Panama vets, too. Because without every one of these courageous Americans, we would not be free Americans. I thank you very much for this special honor."

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