

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

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DOLE, KASSEBAUM WELCOME NATIONAL CHAMP K-STATE DEBATE TEAM;
PRESIDENTIAL VISIT, SENATE RECEPTION HIGHLIGHT WILDCATS' VISIT

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senators Bob Dole & Nancy Kassebaum today welcomed to the nation's capital the latest in the long tradition of national collegiate champions from Kansas -- the 1991 National Championship Debate Team from Kansas State University. The Senators introduced the 14-member squad to President Bush at a White House Rose Garden ceremony, followed by a Capitol Hill reception in Senator Dole's historic Republican Leader offices.

"Our nation is quick to recognize champion athletes," Dole said. "But there's no debating the fact that our champion scholars deserve at least as much recognition. That's why Senator Kassebaum and I were so proud to introduce these talented young men and women to President Bush, and to honor them on Capitol Hill."

The Senators highlighted the reception by presenting the Wildcat debaters with a Dole/Kassebaum-authored resolution passed by the Senate recognizing the team's outstanding achievement. The resolution heralded K-State's victory over UCLA at the national tournament in Bellingham, Washington, noting that the team set the national record for the highest total wins at individual tournaments during the season. The Senate also recognized K-State's undefeated two-man debating team of Richard McCollum of Manhattan and David Filippi of Topeka which won first-place in the national tournament.

The Senate action further praised K-State for its extraordinary record of producing Rhodes, Marshall and Truman scholars. K-State ranks in the top 1 percent of all U.S. universities -- public or private -- in the number of Rhodes scholars.

"No doubt about it, K-State's debate victory is just another example of the tremendous home-grown talent educated in Kansas," Dole said. "Thirteen of the 14 team members hail from Kansas and graduated from high schools all across our great state. I know all Kansans are proud of our champion debaters -- I just wish I had them coaching me in 1988!" Dole added.

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