

Bob Dole

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER



NEWS
FROM:

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INDEPENDENCE DAY

WASHINGTON -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole today made the following statement on the floor of the U.S. Senate in commemoration of Independence Day:

"Next Tuesday, in homes, neighborhoods, and communities across the country, Americans will celebrate Independence Day.

And since the Senate will not be in session on America's birthday, I wanted to take a minute today to share some very meaningful words with my colleagues.

The words are not mine. Rather, they were first written in 1955, as a public relations advertisement for what is now the Norfolk Southern Corporation. The words have been updated slightly since then, and they eloquently encompass what America is all about:

I was born on July 4, 1776, and the Declaration of Independence is my birth certificate. The bloodlines of the world run in my veins, because I offered freedom to the oppressed. I am many things, and many people. I am the nation...

I am Nathan Hale and Paul Revere. I stood at Lexington and fired the shot heard around the world. I am Washington, Jefferson, and Patrick Henry. I am John Paul Jones, the Green Mountain boys and Davy Crockett. I am Lee and Grant and Lincoln.

I remember the Alamo, the Maine and Pearl Harbor. When freedom called, I answered and stayed until it was over, over there. I left my heroic dead in Flanders Fields, on the rock of Corregidor, on the bleak slopes of Korea, and in the steaming jungles of Vietnam.

I am the Brooklyn Bridge, the wheat fields of Kansas, and the granite hills of Vermont. I am the coal fields of the Virginias and Pennsylvania, the fertile lands of the West, the Golden Gate and the Grand Canyon. I am Independence Hall, the Monitor and the Merrimac.

I am big. I sprawl from the Atlantic to the Pacific...My arms reach out to embrace Alaska and Hawaii. Three million square miles throbbing with industry. I am millions of farms. I am forest, field, mountain and desert. I am quiet villages--and cities that never sleep.

You can look at me and see Ben Franklin walking the streets of Philadelphia with a bread loaf under his arm. You can see Betsy Ross with her needle. You can see the lights of Christmas, and hear the strains of "Auld Lang Syne" as the calendar turns.

I am Babe Ruth and the World Series. I am 110,000 schools and colleges, and 330,000 churches where my people worship God as they think best. I am a ballot dropped in a box, the roar of a crowd in a stadium, and the voice of a choir in a cathedral. I am an editorial in a newspaper and a letter to a congressman.

I am Eli Whitney and Stephen Foster. I am Tom Edison, Albert Einstein, and Billy Graham. I am Horace Greeley, Will Rogers, and the Wright brothers. I am George Washington Carver, Jonas Salk, and Martin Luther King.

I am Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Walt Whitman and Thomas Paine.

Yes, I am the nation, and these are the things that I am. I was conceived in freedom and, God willing, in freedom I will spend the rest of my days.

May I possess always the integrity, the courage, and the strength to keep myself unshackled, to remain a citadel of freedom, and a beacon of hope to the world.

I know all Senators join with me in wishing America a happy 219th birthday."

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