

REMARKS OF HONORABLE BOB DOLE  
AT MUNICIPAL STADIUM  
IN KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI  
JUNE 13, 1969

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME TO BE WITH YOU TONIGHT. AS THE 1969 KANSAS ROYALS COMPANY IS SWORN IN. I AM EQUALLY DELIGHTED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THE KANSAS CITY ROYALS, THE FIRST TRULY KANSAS CITY MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL TEAM...AND, I CONGRATULATE THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY AND MR. KAUFMAN AND THE ROYALS MANAGEMENT FOR HONORING THE ARMED FORCES HERE TONIGHT.

COMING FROM KANSAS, A STATE RICH IN MILITARY HERITAGE, WE ARE ALWAYS PLEASED WHEN A GREAT AUDIENCE, AS ALL KANSAS CITY BASEBALL FANS ARE, RECEIVES THE MILITARY SO WARMLY. IN THESE DAYS WHEN IT HAS BECOME A POPULAR PASTIME TO HARASS AND CRITICIZE THE MILITARY, I THINK IT IS FITTING THAT WE PAUSE FOR A MOMENT AND REFLECT ON THE GREAT RECORD OF THE MILITARY AND ITS ROLE FOR THE FUTURE.

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IN MY OWN STATE, KANSANS HAVE AMASSED AN ADMIRABLE RECORD OF SERVICE TO THE NATION. EVERYONE IS AWARE OF THE 20th CENTURY'S MOST POPULAR MAN...A MAN WHO GREW UP IN THE HEART OF HIS COUNTRY IN ABILENE, KANSAS AND ROSE TO THE COMMAND OF THE ALLIED FORCES IN WORLD WAR II. GENERAL DWIGHT EISENHOWER ALWAYS LOVED HIS BOYHOOD HOME IN KANSAS, THROUGH HIS YEARS AS 34TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. INDEED, THE HERITAGE OF KANSAS IS MAGNIFIED BY HIS LIFE. FROM THE GRAND ACHIEVEMENTS OF GENERAL EISENHOWER TO THE ALL-IMPORTANT SUPPORT OF THE COMMON SEAMAN OR PRIVATE, KANSANS HAVE SERVED THEIR NATION WITH DISTINCTION IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES.

AND EVEN TODAY, ALMOST 50,000 KANSAS BOYS ARE SERVING IN THE ARMY, NAVY, MARINES, AND AIR FORCE, WITH OVER 7,000 ON THE FIGHTING FRONT IN SOUTH VIETNAM. THEIR EFFORTS HAVE NOT BEEN WITHOUT SACRIFICE, AS OVER ~~425~~ KANSAS CITIZENS HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES IN VIETNAM WITH OVER TWICE THAT NUMBER OF MISSOURIANS KILLED IN ACTION.



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TONIGHT, AS WE HONOR THESE 60 YOUNG NAVY MEN, LET US NOT FORGET THAT THE MILITARY IS ONLY A PART OF A GREAT STATE AND NATION. WE ARE A GREAT PEOPLE WITH GREAT TRADITION. AND THAT TRADITION IS NOT LIMITED TO GREAT MILITARY FEATS . . . BASEBALL AND ALL SPORTS HAVE LONG BEEN A MAJOR PART OF LIVING IN KANSAS AND MID-AMERICA. IT SEEMS APPROPRIATE THAT SHORTLY AFTER PRESIDENT NIXON ANNOUNCED 25,000 AMERICAN SOLDIERS WOULD BE RETURNED FROM VIETNAM, HE ATTENDED A MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL GAME. IT IS INTERESTS LIKE BASEBALL WHICH SHAPE THE GREAT AMERICAN CHARACTER AND MAKE THIS THE GREAT NATION IT IS.

WE MUST BE PREPARED IN THE FUTURE TO CONTINUE TO DEFEND OUR COUNTRY, FROM ATTACKS AT HOME AS WELL AS FROM PHYSICAL VIOLENCE ABROAD. AND WE WILL ALSO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR PEOPLE HERE IN KANSAS AND MISSOURI AND AROUND THE NATION. AS PRESIDENT NIXON SAID IN COLORADO SPRINGS RECENTLY, "THIS NATION SHALL CONTINUE TO BE A SOURCE OF WORLD LEADERSHIP AND A SOURCE OF FREEDOM'S STRENGTH, IN CREATING A JUST WORLD ORDER THAT WILL BRING AN END TO WAR."

WORKING AS A UNITED TEAM, WE WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE  
CHAMPIONS OF FREEDOM IN THE WORLD. AGAIN, I APPRECIATE  
YOUR INVITATION FOR THIS EVENING'S FESTIVITIES AND NOW LET'S  
SEE WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT DEFEATING ANOTHER TEAM OF WORLD  
CHAMPIONS...THE TIGERS.