

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
JAYHAWK COUNCIL BOY SCOUTS EAGLE RECOGNITION DINNER
DOWNTOWN RAMADA INN
TOPEKA, KANSAS
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1984

THANK YOU VERY MUCH. I WISH I COULD HAVE WORN MY OWN SCOUT UNIFORM. DURING WORLD WAR II, I WORE A UNIFORM OF A DIFFERENT KIND. UNFORTUNATELY, WHEN GENERAL MacARTHUR SAID THAT OLD SOLDIERS FADE AWAY, HE COULDN'T OF BEEN THINKING OF THEIR WAISTLINES. BUT IN MY OWN MIND AND SPIRIT, I CONTINUE TO WEAR BOTH UNIFORMS - AND I'M HONORED TO SAY A FEW WORDS TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES ON WHAT IS, A VERY SPECIAL OCCASION.

A UNIFORM - ANY UNIFORM - WHETHER IT'S THAT OF AN EAGLE SCOUT, A SOLDIER IN THE ARMED FORCES, A CLERGYMAN OR WOMAN OR A KANSAS CITY ROYAL - A UNIFORM MAKES A STATEMENT. IT EXPRESSES A SYSTEM OF VALUES. IT PLEDGES ALLEGIANCE TO A SET OF STANDARDS. WORN BY MANY, IT MAKES THEM ONE, IN DEVOTION TO CERTAIN TRADITIONS OF EXCELLENCE. LIKE THE BADGES YOU WEAR OR THIS CEREMONY ITSELF,

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A COMMON BOND AND SOME VERY UNCOMMON ASPIRATIONS.

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SOMETHING YOU AREN'T ALREADY. INDEED, YOU COULD BE EAGLE SCOUTS
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INSPIRED EVERY GENERATION, EVERY TRIBE, EVERY STATE AND EVERY CLASS. AND PRECISELY BECAUSE WE FIND THEM SO FAMILIAR - BECAUSE WE SAY THEM SO OFTEN, LIKE A RITUAL THAT WE TAKE FOR GRANTED - BECAUSE THEY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN WITH US, WE NEED NOW MORE THAN EVER BEFORE TO KNOW WHAT THEY MEAN. WE NEED TO DEFINE GOD AND COUNTRY FOR OURSELVES AS INDIVIDUALS, FOR OUR FAMILIES, FOR THE NATION WE LOVE AND THE WORLD WE MINISTER TO.

NOW I CAN HARDLY CLAIM ANY SPECIAL INSIGHT INTO THE NATURE OF THE ALMIGHTY. ALTHOUGH PERHAPS I CAN TRY TO DISPEL A LITTLE OF THE PESSIMISM OF THOSE WHO ARE CONVINCED THAT WASHINGTON, D.C. IS AN ENTIRELY GODLESS CITY! TRUST ME, WHEN I TELL YOU THAT EVEN IN OUR NATION'S CAPITAL, WE BELIEVE IN A HIGHER AUTHORITY THAN THE GALLUP POLL - OF A COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN! SOME OF YOU UNDOUBTEDLY ARE AWARE OF MY EFFORTS TO COMBAT THE NATIONAL DEBT. THEY REMIND ME OF THE MISSIONARY WHO APPROACHED A MAN IN DEBT FOR A CONTRIBUTION.

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THE MAN PROTESTED HIS FINANCIAL STATE, AND THE MISSIONARY REMINDED HIM THAT, AFTER ALL, HE OWED GOD MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE. THE MAN THOUGHT THIS OVER FOR A MINUTE. "THAT'S TRUE ENOUGH," HE FINALLY REPLIED, "BUT GOD ISN'T PRESSING ME."

WELL, LET ME SUGGEST THAT PERHAPS GOD IS PRESSING US - ALL OF US. WHEREVER ONE OF OUR BROTHERS OR SISTERS IS HUNGRY OR HOMELESS, IN PHYSICAL NEED OR SPIRITUAL ISOLATION, WHEREVER PEOPLE FEEL ABANDONED OR ABUSED, WHEREVER NATIONS DO BATTLE WITH ONE ANOTHER, WHEREVER OTHER YOUNG MEN WEARING OTHER UNIFORMS FIND THEMSELVES CALLED UPON TO SUFFER AND BLEED AND DIE - THEN GOD PRESSES US TO DO BETTER. AND HOW DO WE ANSWER HIS APPEAL? WE CAN BE LIKE THE MAN WHO SAID HE WAS IN DEBT, TURNING AWAY AND KEEPING OUR THOUGHTS FIRMLY FIXED ON OUR OWN IMAGINED PLIGHT. OR WE CAN BROADEN OUR SCOPE AND EXPAND OUR SYMPATHIES, DIGGING DOWN INSIDE OURSELVES BEFORE REACHING OUT TO OTHERS. FOR GOD IS NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH HOW WE

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IN RECENT YEARS, IT BECAME FASHIONABLE AMONG SOME CYNICS TO CLAIM THAT GOD WAS DEAD. THOSE WHO MAKE SUCH ASSERTIONS ARE VAIN ENOUGH TO BELIEVE THAT GOD DIES AT THE MOMENT THEY TURN AWAY FROM HIM. IN A WAY, THEY SET THEMSELVES UP AS THEIR OWN GOD - A DANGEROUS AS WELL AS DOUBTFUL PRACTICE. NO, GOD DOES NOT DIE - BUT WE BEGIN TO DIE ON THE DAY WHEN OUR LIVES ARE NO LONGER LIT UP BY THAT SPECIAL LIGHT OF WONDER, THE SOURCE OF WHICH IS BEYOND ALL

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PRESIDENT EISENHOWER DID NOT MEAN THAT GOVERNMENT COULD, BY ITSELF, REALIZE OUR HOPES. FOR GOVERNMENT IS NOT THE HEART OF AMERICA. COME TO THINK OF IT, A LOT OF YOUR PARENTS PROBABLY SUSPECT IT ISN'T THE HEAD, EITHER. BUT GOVERNMENT AT ITS BEST CAN BE INFORMED AND INSPIRED BY THE LOVE OF COUNTRY THAT SENDS A MAN OFF TO A DISTANT BATTLEFIELD, OR MOTIVATES HIM TO FIGHT INJUSTICE

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NO SUCH CENSORSHIP OF MIND OR CREED POISONS THE AIR OF AMERICA. IT IS A NOBLE LAND THAT GOD HAS GIVEN US TO CALL HOME; A LAND THAT TRUE TO HIS SPIRIT HAS DONE MORE THAN ANY OTHER TO FEED AND CLOTHE AN IMPOVERISHED WORLD; A LAND WHICH EXPORTS IDEALS INSTEAD OF REVOLUTION: A LAND WHICH HISTORICALLY HAS GONE TO WAR NOT FOR ITS OWN TERRITORIAL GAIN, BUT TO PROTECT OTHERS FROM FOREIGN AGGRESSION.

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WE ARE A MIXTURE OF PEOPLES, A NATION OF NATIONS - FREE TO THINK, TO DEBATE, TO CRITICIZE, TO VOTE. WE ACKNOWLEDGE OUR FLAWS AND SET OUT TO CORRECT THEM. JUST WITHIN YOUR LIFETIMES, FOR INSTANCE, THIS COUNTRY HAS COME CLOSER THAN EVER BEFORE TO MAKING GOOD ON THAT ANCIENT PROMISE THAT ALL AMERICANS ARE BORN EQUAL, AND THAT EACH HAS THE SAME INALIENABLE RIGHT TO LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS.

WE HAVE ABANDONED THE OLD AND SHAMEFUL COURSE OF SEPARATE, UNEQUAL TREATMENT OF BLACK AND BROWN AMERICANS. WE ARE MAKING BOLD STRIDES FORWARD IN RIDDING THE LEGAL CODES OF LINGERING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN. WE ARE CLEANING UP OUR PHYSICAL LANDSCAPE, RELIEVING TAXPAYERS OF AT LEAST SOME OF THE HEAVY BURDENS THEY HAVE BORNE FOR TOO LONG, AND MAKING OUR OWN GOVERNMENT LISTEN TO US BEFORE IT LEADS US ANYWHERE.

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AND IT CERTAINLY ISN'T QUIET. BUT THAT'S THE GREATNESS OF THIS COUNTRY, THIS LAND THAT HAS SPENT OVER 200 YEARS IN THE PROCESS OF BECOMING. AMERICA IS STILL BECOMING - AND IN THE YEARS AHEAD, YOU WILL HAVE YOUR OWN ROLES TO PLAY IN FURTHERING THE PROCESS. YOU START OUT WITH SOME IMPRESSIVE ADVANTAGES. FAMILIES WHO LOVE YOU, THE FAITH HANDED DOWN BY EARLIER GENERATIONS, A SENSE OF COMMUNITY THAT IS UNKNOWN IN SOME UNFORTUNATE NEIGHBORHOODS. YOU HAVE ALREADY SHOWN A CAPACITY FOR MAKING THE MOST OF THESE - OR ELSE YOU WOULD NOT BE HERE THIS EVENING, RECEIVING THIS HONOR, AND PLEDGING YOURSELVES TO CONTINUE THE EFFORT OF GIVING AND GROWING AT THE SAME TIME.

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"WE CAME TO AMERICA," SAID WOODROW WILSON, "EITHER OURSELVES OR IN THE PERSONS OF OUR ANCESTORS, TO BETTER THE IDEALS OF MEN, TO MAKE THEM SEE FINER THINGS THAN THEY HAD SEEN BEFORE, TO GET RID OF THE THINGS THAT DIVIDE AND TO MAKE SURE OF THE THINGS THAT UNITE. IT WAS BUT AN ACCIDENT OF HISTORY THAT THIS GREAT COUNTRY WAS CALLED THE UNITED STATES - YET, I AM VERY THANKFUL THAT IT HAS THE WORD UNITED IN ITS TITLE, AND THE MAN WHO SEEKS TO DIVIDE MAN FROM MAN, GROUP FROM GROUP, INTEREST FROM INTEREST IN THIS GREAT

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Happy New Year

Remarks of Senator Bob Dole
OK Jayhawk Council Boy Scouts Recognition Dinner
Topeka, Kansas
Wednesday, January 4, 1984

Thank you very much, _____, for that nice introduction. I ~~would~~
wish I could have worn my own Scout uniform. During World War II, of ~~course~~,
I wore a uniform of a different kind. Unfortunately, when General Mac-
Arthur said that old soldiers fade away, he couldn't of been thinking
of their wastel¹ines. But in my own mind and spirit, I continue to wear
both uniforms - and I'm ~~very much~~ honored to say a few words to you and
your families on what is, I ~~know~~, a very special occasion.

A uniform - any uniform - whether it's that of an Eagle Scout,
a soldier in the armed forces, a clergymen or woman or a Kansas City
Royal - a uniform makes a statement. It expresses a ^{system} ~~set~~ of values. It
pledges alleigance to a ^{set} ~~system~~ of ^{standards} ~~values~~. Worn by many, it makes them
one, in devotion to certain ~~standards and~~ traditions of excellence. Like
the badges you wear or this ceremony itself, what you put on to signify
your status as an Eagle Scout suggests a common bond and some very uncommon
aspirations.

But a uniform by itself means nothing. All alone, it's like
the ivy that climbs up a phone pole - take the pole away, and the ivy
quickly comes crashing down to the ground. You who wear it are like that
pole. It adorns you, but it does not make you something you aren't
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without badges, without ceremonies. You could, so long as you believed in
what these things stand for.

God and Country
God and Country. That is the faith that we renew this evening.
That is the creed that cuts across every kind of artificial distinction,
every barrier of race and background, ~~or~~ economic status or political
belief. God and Country: the words are as old as mankind itself. They
are spoken in every language. They have inspired every generation, every

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tribe, every state and every class. And precisely because we find them so familiar - because we say them so often, like a ritual that we take for granted - because they have always been with us, we need now more than ever before to know what they mean. We need to define God and Country for ourselves as individuals, for our families, for the nation we love and the world we minister to.

Now I can hardly claim any special insight into the nature of the Almighty. Although ~~at least~~ ^{perhaps} I can try to dispell a little of the pessimism of those who are convinced that Washington, D.C. ^{is} an entirely godless city! Trust me, when I tell you that even in our nation's capital, we believe in a higher authority than the Gallup Poll - or a committee chairman! Some of you undoubtedly are aware of my efforts to combat the national debt. They remind me of the missionary who approached a man in debt for a contribution. The man protested his financial state, and the missionary reminded him that, after all, he owed God more than anyone else. The man thought this over for a minute. "That's true enough," he finally replied, "but God isn't pressing me!"

Well, let me suggest that perhaps God is pressing us - all of us. Wherever one of our brothers or sisters is hungry or homeless, in physical need or spiritual isolation, wherever people feel abandoned or abused, wherever nations do battle with one another, wherever other young men wearing other uniforms find themselves called upon to suffer and bleed and die - then God presses us to do better. And how do we answer his appeal? We can be like the man who said he was in debt, turning away and keeping our thoughts firmly fixed on our own imagined plight. Or we can broaden our scope and expand our sympathies, digging down inside ourselves before reaching out to others. For God is not to be confused with how we may worship him - any more than your own faith ~~is~~ - consists of

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a uniform, a badge, or this ceremony alone. They are but the external trappings of faith. The heart of faith, like God Himself, is to be found not in the uniforms we wear but in the lives we lead. And those lives, to have real meaning and lasting satisfaction, must interact with other lives. They must concern themselves with the condition of this world and all who inhabit it. For then and only then do we make God's work truly our own.

In recent years, it became fashionable among some cynics to claim that God was dead. Those who make such assertions are vain enough to believe that God dies at the moment they turn away from Him. In a way, they set themselves up as their own God - a dangerous as well as doubtful practice. No, God does not die - but we begin to die on the day when our lives are no longer lit up by that special light of wonder, the source of which is beyond all reason. It is from that light that ^{we} take hope; from that great enduring torch that ^{we} can light our own candles and find our ^{own} way through a world that might otherwise appear very dark indeed.

— God is everywhere —
So remember: God is everywhere, but most of all within each one of us. The same can be said of the truest spirit of patriotism. It was a great Kansan named Dwight Eisenhower who once wrote that "Whatever America hopes to bring to pass in the world must first come to pass in the heart of America!"

President Eisenhower did not mean that government could, by itself, realize our hopes. For government is not the heart of America. Come to think of it, a lot of your parents probably suspect it isn't the head, either. But government at its best can be informed and inspired by the love of country that sends a man off to a distant battlefield, or motivates him to fight injustice in this land devoted to justice, or

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prompts the stirrings of individual conscience whenever we as a people fail to live up to the promises we made to ourselves at our birth.

The love of country, ~~that~~ ^{Love of Country} like the love of God, is not ~~diverted~~ ^{divorced} away from ^{high hopes} ~~ideals~~ and ^{powerful} emotions. On the contrary, there it rests. We love America, not for her wealth or her power, but for her goodness and her ideals. We love her for the freedom that is every man's birthright. We love her for the opportunity that she holds out to all who would seize it and put it to work for themselves. We love her for the very diversity that encourages disagreement and tolerates even extreme dissent. I may not be able to define either God or Country to your satisfaction - but this much I know: that in this country more than any other, every single one of you is entitled to define them for yourselves. No agent of the state will tell you what to believe. No long arm of the law will throw you into jail or exile you to a distant wasteland for rejecting official ~~attitudes~~ ^{doctrine}.

It is a noble land that God has given us to call home; a land that true to His spirit has done more than any other to feed and clothe an impoverished world; a land which exports ideals instead of revolution; a land which has gone to war not for its own territorial gain, but to protect others from foreign aggression. We are a mixture of peoples, a nation of nations - free to think, to debate, to criticize, to vote. We acknowledge our flaws and set out to correct them. Just within your lifetimes, for instance, this country has come closer than ever before to making good on that ancient promise that all Americans are born equal, and that each has the same inalienable right to ~~the~~ life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

We have abandoned the old and shameful course of separate, unequal treatment of black and brown Americans. We are making bold strides

Now we are in 1914, and everyone recalls the novel by George Orwell, with the sinister creed of Big Brother and the deadly language of Doublethink. Last month in the Soviet Union, two men were condemned to exile for 11 months for dissenting what was labeled "anti-state propaganda." You guessed it: they were dissenting among copies of 1984. He very book that spells out the threat posed by totalitarian governments.

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forward in ridding the legal codes of lingering discrimination against women. We are cleaning up our landscape, relieving taxpayers of at least some of the heavy burdens they have borne for too long, and making our own government listen to us before it leads us anywhere.

We are casting old ^{ambitions} ~~ideals~~ in a new light. It isn't easy. And it certainly isn't quiet. But that's the greatness of this country, this land that has spent over 200 years in the process of becoming. America is still becoming - and in the years ahead, you will have your own roles to play in furthering the process. You start out with some impressive advantages. Families who love you, the faith handed down by earlier generations, a sense of community that is unknown in some unfortunate neighborhoods. You have already shown a capacity for making the most of these - or else you would not be here this evening, receiving this honor, and pledging yourselves to continue the effort of giving and growing at the same time.

^{- Mr. Young} In the end, each of you will devise your own definition of God and Country. And that is as it should be, in this place where we cherish individuality more than obedience. But you will be helped no doubt in that by your fellow Scouts, by those who give you guidance, within your troops, your classrooms, and above all, at home and ⁱⁿ church. I have no doubt that you will live up to the challenge those words pose. ^{And} I would leave you with a few words from another great American, one who believed with all his soul and all his might in a righteous God inspiring a ^{generous} ~~useful~~ Country.

"We came to America", said Woodrow Wilson, "either ourselves or in the persons of our ancestors, to better the ideals of men, to make them see finer things than they had seen before, to get rid of the things that divide and to make sure of the things that unite. It was but an accident of history that this great country was called the United States - yet, I am

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very thankful that it has the word United in its title, and the man who seeks to divide man from man, group from group, interest from interest in this great Union is striking at its very heart!"

We can have our differences, Wilson suggested; indeed, a free people must have their differences. But we cannot tolerate division for long, or internal warfare at all. What binds us together? To my mind, it is the very words that you celebrate this evening: it is God and it is Country. Remember them, not only tonight but all the days to come. Keep them close to your heart - and not only will America achieve her potential for great things. So will you. *Congratulations.*