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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DOLE WRAPS UP '88 CAMPAIGN

NEARLY FIVE MONTHS AGO, I WENT HOME TO RUSSELL, KANSAS, TO DECLARE MY CANDIDACY FOR THE HIGHEST OFFICE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE CAN BESTOW. IT WAS ONLY NATURAL THAT I SHOULD BEGIN MY CAMPAIGN FOR THE PRESIDENCY ON MAIN STREET, AMONG THOSE FROM WHOM I HAVE ALWAYS DRAWN MY STRENGTH AND IDENTITY.

TODAY, HERE I AM -- BLOODIED BUT UNBOWED, AS THE POET SAYS -- REMINDING YOU THAT THERE WAS A SPECIAL REASON THIS YEAR FOR THOSE OF US ON THE REPUBLICAN SIDE TO WALK, OR IN MY CASE, TO RUN THE EXTRA MILE. THAT REASON IS THE NATIONAL INTEREST. THE NATION IS ENTERING A PERIOD IN WHICH THERE ARE GREAT DANGERS AND GREAT CHALLENGES.

THE RACE

I ENTERED THIS RACE CONVINCED THAT TO SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS AND REALIZE OUR POTENTIAL, AMERICA REQUIRES STRONG LEADERSHIP -- THE KIND FORGED IN THE CRUCIBLE OF GOVERNANCE -- THE KIND THAT IS SENSITIVE TO HOW ORDINARY PEOPLE LIVE, AND ATTUNED TO THEIR EXTRAORDINARY POSSIBILITIES.

I RAN FOR MY PARTY'S NOMINATION BECAUSE I WAS DETERMINED TO LEAD A DIALOGUE ON ISSUES THAT MATTER. ISSUES THAT I CARE PASSIONATELY ABOUT, INVOLVING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AND FISCAL INTEGRITY OF THIS COUNTRY -- PROFOUNDLY INTERRELATED ISSUES I FEARED WOULD GET LOST IN THE SHUFFLE. I WANTED THESE ISSUES TO BE A PART OF A CRUCIAL DIALOGUE ABOUT THIS COUNTRY'S FUTURE.

IT MATTERS IF WE HAVE THIS HOSTILE SOVIET CLIENT STATE THE SANDINISTAS ARE BUILDING IN OUR BACK YARD. IT MATTERS IF WE HAVE THIS MONSTER DEFICIT LOOMING UP LIKE A TIDAL WAVE IN OUR FUTURE. AND IT MATTERS HOW WE DEAL WITH THESE ISSUES -- WHETHER WE MORTGAGE OUR FUTURE TO THEM, OR WHETHER WE MAKE SURE THAT THE "BUCK STOPS HERE" AND FUTURE GENERATIONS DON'T HAVE TO PAY UP BECAUSE OF OUR COWARDICE.

-MORE-

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I AM A FIGHTER

MY CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN AN APPEAL FOR ALL REPUBLICANS TO RECOGNIZE AND CELEBRATE THE DIVERSITY OF AMERICA. NO PARTY CAN GOVERN THAT IS NOT TRULY REPRESENTATIVE OF THIS NATION OF NATIONS. NO PRESIDENT CAN SUCCEED WHO PROMISES COMPETENCE BUT WITHHOLDS COMPASSION. I SEEK A PARTY AS STRONG IN ITS COMMITMENT TO EQUAL RIGHTS AS IT IS TO MILITARY AND ECONOMIC PRE-EMINENCE. FOR THE DEFENSE OF AMERICAN FREEDOM, WHETHER AT HOME OR ABROAD, IS ULTIMATELY INDIVISIBLE -- ITS SUCCESS DEPENDS ON A HOUSE UNITED, AND LEADERSHIP WITH THE WILL TO WIN.

MY FRIENDS KNOW THAT I AM A FIGHTER. I DON'T LIKE TO LOSE. I MAKE NO APOLOGY FOR THAT. IT IS SIMPLY THE WAY I AM. THEY ALSO KNOW I AM AN OPTIMIST. IF I WEREN'T, I WOULDN'T BE STANDING HERE TODAY. I HAVE BEEN BEATEN BEFORE, AND NO DOUBT WILL BE AGAIN. BUT I HAVE NEVER BEEN DEFEATED, AND NEVER WILL BE.

END OF THE ROAD

MY WIFE, ELIZABETH, AND MY DAUGHTER, ROBIN, ARE BESIDE ME TODAY, AS THEY HAVE BEEN THROUGHOUT THIS CAMPAIGN. WE HAVE BECOME EVEN CLOSER BECAUSE OF THIS JOURNEY. I WILL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL FOR THEIR LOVE AND SUPPORT.

BILL BROCK AND BOB ELLSWORTH AND JOE FOGG; MY COLLEAGUES IN THE HOUSE AND SENATE; STAFF MEMBERS AND COUNTLESS VOLUNTEERS BOTH HERE AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY HAVE MADE THIS CAMPAIGN A LABOR OF LOVE, AND MY THANKS SEEM HARDLY ENOUGH: MORE THAN ONE AND A HALF MILLION AMERICANS HAVE HONORED ME WITH THEIR SUPPORT IN PRIMARIES AND CAUCUSES, AND FOR THAT I WILL ALWAYS BE HUMBLE.

BUT ONE THING YOU LEARN HOW TO DO PRETTY WELL IN OUR BUSINESS IS TO COUNT. YOU COME TO TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS TO TELL YOU WHEN IT'S OVER. IN MY HEART, I KNOW THAT THAT TIME IS NOW.

I CONGRATULATE GEORGE BUSH AND WISH HIM WELL IN NOVEMBER. THE BOTTOM LINE IS KEEPING THE WHITE HOUSE REPUBLICAN.

SO TODAY, I HAVE COME TO THE END OF ONE ROAD. BUT THE JOURNEY IS FAR FROM OVER. WHEN PEOPLE ASK ME WHY I RAN FOR PRESIDENT, I WILL SAY BECAUSE I WANTED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, AND THAT DESIRE WILL REMAIN WITH ME FOR AS LONG AS I LIVE.

RONALD REAGAN HAS MADE AN HISTORIC DIFFERENCE FOR AMERICA: HE HAS SET US ON A NEW COURSE TO RENEWED PROSPERITY, GREATER SECURITY, AND MORE HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR EACH AND EVERY AMERICAN. BUT THERE IS MUCH MORE WORK TO DO.

SO I RETURN TO THE SENATE AS THE REPUBLICAN LEADER, EAGER TO ENGAGE THERE THE ISSUES THAT CONFRONT AMERICA AND READY TO DO ALL I CAN TO ELECT REPUBLICANS IN NOVEMBER -- AND DOING ALL I CAN FOR OUR NOMINEE, GEORGE BUSH.

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DOLE CAMPAIGN COMES TO A CLOSE RUSSELL CAUCUS ROOM

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