

# Friends gather to honor Bob Dole's Legacy

Submitted by Michael J. Marshall

This past weekend we celebrated what would have been Bob Dole's 100th birthday. As hundreds of friends gathered at the Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas in Lawrence to pay tribute to the former Senator from Kansas, he was rightly extolled for his remarkable legacy of public service and as a unique leader of the Senate whose style and respect for the office leaves much to recommend.

What is evident is that Dole was "the quintessential member" of the Greatest Generation. Not to take anything away from many other outstanding leaders of the era, public and private, especially President George H.W. Bush, whose WWII and lengthy public service that brought him to the highest post in the land was also marked by character and decency.

But there is no other public figure who was more identified with the sacrifice and service of WWII generation and who connected more directly with the veterans than Bob Dole. His humble beginnings, his life-changing war wounds and the spirit with which he overcame them, and his sheer effort in making veterans the center of so much of his public life make Dole the most identifiable member of the group that saved our country and saved the world

from tyranny.

Dole wore the bar to his purple heart pin on his lapel each day. He would pat the chest of wounded soldiers he met gently and whisper, "You understand what it's all about" – and he meant freedom and liberty and the sacrifice that comes with preserving it. He had a special bond with any soldier who came back less than whole and carried that with him everywhere he went.

In later years, when raising money for the WWII Memorial, Dole was turned down by CEOs of major companies who claimed their companies only gave to "educational causes." Dole didn't hesitate: "It was certainly educational for me, and for millions of other Americans who fought," he would respond. "Many died or returned with a lifelong disability, and now we have a free country, and your company is profitable because of it." That was the kind of All American irreverence that was ingrained in Dole and people loved him for it.

Dole was synonymous with WWII and Greatest Generation sacrifice, but there was much more to his legacy as well. His leadership of the United States Senate and fulfillment of that role with uncommon strength tops the list. His skill in navigating a narrow majority, holding disparate factions together, and, when in the minority, serv-

ing as the "loyal opposition" have set a standard for Senate leadership against which all future Senate Leaders will be judged.

Dole's many legislative triumphs included Ronald Reagan's historic tax reform that spurred an unprecedented economic recovery, his support for food and nutrition legislation that brought down both U.S. and world hunger and that fed millions worldwide, and the three efforts for which he often said he was most proud: saving Social Security from insolvency, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday bill.

Dole's length of tenure and the tenor with which he led "the world's most deliberative body" – marked by keeping his word to colleagues on both sides of the aisle, keeping the Senate in session until the work was done, and building consensus on central issues of our time – proved he was a true "master" of the Senate. Although that title had already been reserved for Lyndon Johnson, Dole could he heard joking that he too could have been "Master of the Senate" if he had a 68 majority like Johnson. Indeed, he was.

To the titles of veteran, member of the Greatest Generation, and Leader, Dole was also an icon in the disability community,

not simply for leading the Americans with Disabilities Act to passage and defending the principle that access to mainstream American life was critical to the economic and civil rights of people with disabilities, and freedom of all people. He continued that fight in for the decades after passage of the ADA and was revered even more because of his own personal triumph over disability and the honesty with which he shared his struggle with them and gave hope to millions of Americans that anything was possible.

Dole also achieved a rare title for legislative leaders, Statesman. His leadership in foreign policy has been unmatched by any Senate leader. Because of his personal service in WWII and his hard work on the issues, Dole was a natural and sought after to lead. He believed deeply in the indispensable leadership role and responsibility the U.S. to stem the rise of would-be tyrants. He carried a deep sense of purpose that led to his steely resolve and defense of American interests.

Dole led the Senate in supporting Taiwan against the ambitions of authoritarian dictators in China and stalwart supporter of the Taiwan Relations Act. He supported Poland's solidarity movement away from communist leadership, and democratic reformer Lech Walesa. He supported reformers Boris Yeltsin (not without criticism) and Mikhail Gorbachev in the Soviet Union and leaders in the former Soviet bloc like Vaclav Havel who would lead Czechoslovakia to democratic reforms and

the first free elections in 44 years. Dole championed the enlargement of NATO in Eastern Europe to secure, democratize, and bring prosperity to former Communist countries.

Dole was an ardent defender of the State of Israel, its right to live in peace, and of American commitment to lasting peace agreements in the Middle East that recognized the right to live in what Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin referred to as "redeemed territory." Dole's connection to the Israeli people through World War II was not only special but provide in him an unwavering commitment that America should never again stand by in the face of genocide.

In that regard Dole was a steadfast friend to the Armenian people and led the fight to recognize the Armenian genocide. Having fought in the hills of Italy, he understood that that region of Europe factored heavily in two world wars. In Bosnia, he was unwavering in opposing the "Butcher of Belgrade" Slobodan Milosevic, who was responsible for the massacre at Srebrenica and who ultimately died while on trial for genocide. Dole helped negotiate peace that led to Kosovo independence and what is today a thriving ally of the United States.

During his role as Leader, Dole was over and over the man to deliver strong messages to dictators whose aspirations threatened stability in the world and U.S. Interests. Those included Saddam Hussein in the

Middle East, and Daniel Ortega in South America, where Dole's pressure ultimately led to democratization in Nicaragua.

The list goes on, but the legacy of Bob Dole as one of the Greatest Generation's greatest, for his character as Senate leader who as Ronald Reagan said proved "the Senate could be led," as a disability icon, and as a Statesman who defended American interests abroad and whose understanding of the moral responsibility carried through at home, where he staunchly defended civil rights, voting rights, disability rights, hunger and nutrition, and health care.

The institute that bears his name at Kansas University has taken on the formidable task of working to preserve and defend a brand of political engagement that has become more difficult in an age of modern media. It's not an easy task today. For Bob Dole, politics was where we resolved differences short of conflict, and differing points of view were welcomed, understood to be vital in a free society, and a sign of strength.

Dole's 100th birthday celebration was a friendly reminder of the sacrifice and hard work that goes into democracy and to preserving a free society. We might need many more reminders like to keep that idea front and center in our hearts and to renew the sense of purpose FOR America that was central to Bob Dole's being.

Mr. Marshall worked for Senator Bob Dole for over 15 years.

## •County

motion to provide Russell PRIDE with \$25,000 to help fund this project. Commissioner Daron Woelk seconded, and Commissioner Steve Reinhardt approved. Parsons will contact the Russell County treasurer to arrange payment.

Parsons also stated that he spoke with Kansas' United States Senator Jerry Moran about federal infrastructure funding for the Hell Creek Bridge and will gather more information.

Mitch Castor, Russell County Geographic Information Systems/Zoning Director Chris Brown, Jeannine Byers-Long, Raeleen Reinhardt, Katrina Woelk, County Public Works Director Kuntzsch, and Gudenkauf & Malone, Inc., representative Susan Orender joined the commission meeting.

Discussion of Russell County's 2024 budget was held. The Notices of Revenue Neutral Rate Intent were signed for Russell

County, Gorham Fire No. 1, Lucas Fire No. 2, Waldo-Paradise-Natoma Fire No. 3, Dorrance Fire No. 4, and Russell County Fire No. 5. The Russell County 2024 budget and RNR hearings will be held on Monday, Aug. 21, 2023, at 1 p.m. in the commission chambers at the county courthouse.

Katrina Woelk, the Russell County Unified School District 407 treasurer, and Raeleen Reinhardt, a USD 407 board member, stated concerns over the late distribution payments from the Russell County Treasurer's Office. USD 407 did not receive the June distribution until July 7, 2023. Permission was needed from the state to put the funds received into the correct fiscal year. If permission had not been received to do this, USD 407 would have lost a sizable amount of state funding.

Checks were approved and signed to be deducted from the following funds:

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100 General, \$30,409.73; 110 Road & Bridge, \$10,899.68; 120 Sp. Road & Bridge, \$709.80; 130 Noxious Weed, \$1,820.37; 140 4-H, \$320.08; 150 CVB, \$2,383.60; 155 ED, \$1,240.78; 180 Election, \$156.16; 190 Ambulance, \$6,710.05; 210 Cap. Improvement, \$23,285; 260 Health, \$18,443.89; 290 Gorham Fire, \$3,212.38; 310 Wal-Par-Nat, \$493.48; 320 Dorrance Fire, \$2,952.09; 328 Rs. Co. Fire No. 5, \$88.12; 330 Appraiser, \$1,842.73; 340 Special R&B, \$1,027.37; 360 Solid Waste, \$3,446.62; and 380 Em. Telephone, \$289.47.

The next meeting for the commissioners will be on Monday, Aug. 7, beginning at 9 a.m. in the commission chambers at the Russell County Courthouse.

Information for this article was provided by the official minutes of the Russell County Commission's July 17 meeting.



## August

### Health Calendar Russell Regional Hospital

**8/2 - Sports Physicals for Russell Co Athletes - 4:30pm to 7:00pm**

**8/8 - Prime Time w/Russell Senior Center - 11:45am - Dr. Somers - Wound Care**

**8/10 - People in the News - KRSL - 98.1am @ 8:10am - Janae Talbott - Grain Donation Program**

**8/21 - Mammo Night - 4pm to 7pm - call for appointment @ 785-483-3131 press 6**

**8/24 - RRH County Board Mtg - 5:30pm -RRH Classroom**

**8/25 - Health Fair Profile by appointment Schedule @ 785-483-3131 press 9**


**8/25- Walk with a Doc - Dr. Adams - 10am- RRH Walking Trail**

Physician's Clinic Walk-In Services: 785-483-3333  
M-F / 8:00am-5:30pm - Saturday: 8:00am-12:00pm

Wound Clinic: 785-498-8050  
Massage Therapy: 785-483-0740  
Behavioral Health/Counseling Services: 785-483-3131

**200 S. Main - Russell, Ks  
785-483-3131**


# CHRISTMAS IN JULY HOT SUMMER SAVINGS!



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