

Today, as we celebrate this 80th anniversary of Georgia's independence, we also honor and commend the Georgian people for their courage and commitment in achieving their dream of a nation free again at last and committed to the principles of democracy.

AWARD OF DOD'S DISTINGUISHED
PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today to say a few words about our former colleague and Majority Leader, Senator Robert Dole.

There are few people who have given more to this Nation than Bob Dole. He has dedicated his life to public service. He was a young Army officer during World War II, helping to liberate Europe, where as we all know, he suffered his lifelong wounds. He served in the Kansas State House, in the United States House of Representatives, and ultimately in the United States Senate, as Majority Leader, where he left his greatest mark. Even though he no longer holds elected office, Bob still finds ways to contribute to the public good through a variety of efforts, not the least of which is his work on the World War II Memorial. He is truly a man who has distinguished himself through his selflessness, who has rendered the Nation a great service, and is worthy of the respect and admiration of all Americans.

A few weeks ago, another one of our former colleagues, Secretary of Defense William Cohen, made certain that Senator Dole knew the high regard in which he is held by the men and women of our armed services by holding a full dress parade in his honor and bestowing upon him the Department of Defense's Distinguished Public Service Award. This was an especially impressive ceremony that weaved together pageantry, heritage, and patriotism in a stirring tribute to both Senator Dole and his service to the United States. I was particularly moved by the remarks of my two friends and want to share them with my colleagues in the Senate, and with the Nation through the Congressional Record. I am certain that all who read these speeches will agree with me that they provide both insight into a modest and private man and a fitting tribute to a true American hero.

I ask unanimous consent that copies of Secretary Cohen's and Senator Dole's remarks be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SENATOR BOB DOLE—REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY, FORT MEYER, VIRGINIA, APRIL 29, 1998

If given the choice between receiving an award from a Secretary of Defense or appointing a Secretary of Defense, I would have picked the latter.

Seriously, I am humbled and honored by this award, and it means all the more to me because it was presented by a man I have

long been privileged to call my friend. Thank you, Mr. Secretary, for this ceremony, for this award, and for reminding us that when it comes to our national defense, we should not define ourselves as Democrats or Republicans, but rather, simply as Americans.

I am also pleased to be joined today by the president of the American Red Cross. Throughout this century, wherever you have found American service men and women—whether on the battlefield, on the base, or in the hospital—you knew that close by you would also find the American Red Cross.

And on behalf of all the past and present members of the Armed Forces here, I thank Elizabeth for the difference the Red Cross has made in our lives. And while I may not be proof of the old saying that here in America, any boy can grow up to be President, I take heart in the fact that I am proof that any boy can grow up and be married to the President . . . of the American Red Cross, that is.

During my life I have been privileged to be called by many titles—including congressman, Senator, and majority leader. But the two titles of which I am most proud have nothing to do with elective office. The first is "Kansan." And the second is "veteran."

I have often wondered why the Army assigned a kid from the plains of Kansas to serve in the 10th Mountain Division, but I've never wondered about the courage and heroism of those who served with me, and those who have defended our country in the half century that has followed. And I can't help but recall today the words of General George Marshall, who was asked soon after America's entrance into World War II, whether we had a secret weapon that would ensure victory.

Marshall said, "Yes, our secret weapon is the best darned kids in the world."

Marshall was right. America ensured the survival of freedom in World War II precisely because we had the best darned kids in the world—kids who were willing to fight and die for their country and for the cause of freedom.

What was true in World War II, has continued to be true in the decades that have followed, as more of those best darned kids have fought and died in places with names like Inchon, Porkchop Hill, the Persian Gulf, and countless other locations around the globe.

I traveled to Bosnia just this past weekend, and can report to you, Mr. Secretary, that our Armed Services can still boast the best darned kids in the world.

Throughout my years in the Battlefields of Capitol Hill, I always tried to remember and stand up for those who were serving or who had served. And I always tried to remember that the only way to ensure that future generations or those kids would not be buried on foreign land was to continue to provide for a strong defense and American leadership whenever and wherever it was needed.

And any success I achieved in this regard was achieved because so many others stood with me. And although this old soldier has retired from elective office, I don't intend to fade away. Rather, I will continue to stand up and speak out on matters of importance to the United States, and I will always regard this day and this award not as recognition for any achievements of the past, but as a reminder of our responsibilities to future generations of Americans.

And so, Mr. Secretary, Lieutenant Robert J. Dole is reporting for duty today, ready for a mission that must be shared by all Americans; a mission perhaps best defined by the author Herman Wouk, who said:

"(Our duty is to) reassure (our men and women in uniform) that their hard, long training is needed, that love of country is

noble, that self-sacrifice is rewarding and that to be ready to fight for freedom fills one with a sense of worth like nothing else . . . for if America is still the great beacon in dense gloom, the promise to hundreds of millions of the oppressed that liberty exists, that it is the shining future, that they can throw off their tyrants, and learn freedom and cease learning war, then we still need heroes to stand guard in the night."

Thank you, Mr. Secretary for this day, and thanks to all those heroes here today and the countless thousands who serve with you who make the world a safer place by standing guard in the night.

REMARKS OF SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM S. COHEN—PRESENTATION OF DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD TO BOB DOLE, CONMY HALL, FORT MYER, VIRGINIA, APRIL 29, 1998

General Ralston, thank you for your gracious words. Senator Dole, Elizabeth and Robin Dole; Members of Congress: Senator Thurmond, Specter, Campbell, Smith and Reed and Congressmen Ryun and Houghton; Deputy Secretary Hamre and Julie Hamre; Service secretaries, service chiefs and spouses; Distinguished guests, especially Jack Kemp, Warren Rudman, Paul Laxalt, Colin Powell, Ambassador Ellsworth. Welcome all, and thank you for joining Janet and me and the entire Department of Defense in paying tribute to a dear friend and a true American hero—Bob Dole.

Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., who served his country both as a soldier and a public servant, once spoke to his fellow veterans in words that reflect the soldier and public servant we honor today. Holmes said: "As I look into your eyes, I feel that a great trial in your youth made you different. It made you a citizen of the world and not of a little town. Best of all, it made you believe in something else besides doing the best for yourself. You learned a lesson early which has given a different feeling to life, which put a kind of fire into your heart."

Today we express our gratitude to Bob Dole, a man from the little town of Russell, Kansas for whom the lessons of life came early. With the Dustbowl came the lesson of hard work. With the Depression came the lesson of hardship. With World War II came the lesson of service and sacrifice in a way most of us will never know.

Throughout his distinguished career, we have called Bob Dole by many titles—Congressman Dole, Senator Dole, Chairman Dole and Candidate Dole. Our ceremony today honors all those roles, but also honors a time when he was known as Second Lieutenant Robert Dole, who led the Second Battalion of the 85th Infantry Mountain Regiment of the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division.

As the war in Europe was winding down, a spring offensive was scheduled for April 12, 1945 to bring about the surrender of German forces in Italy. On the same day, as it happens, President Roosevelt died. But it was not the President's death but a heavy fog that delayed the offensive until April 14 at oh-six-hundred. After the intensive assault against fortified German positions by heavy bombers, fighter-bombers and artillery, the 10th Mountain Division began to move across a ravine to a clearing to take for the Allies what was known as Hill 913.

But even after the shelling and bombing, there was significant German resistance. The snipers were dug in. The 10th Mountain Division would take more casualties on April 14, 1945 than all the other Allied forces in Italy. Second Lieutenant Robert Dole was hit and gravely wounded by a mortar blast and waited in a shell hole for nine hours until the medics could reach him.

The war in Europe ended just a few weeks later on May 8, 1945. Second Lieutenant Dole came back to a Topeka hospital and eventually back to Russell. When he went to Europe, he weighed a muscular 200 pounds and was a football, basketball and track star at the State University of Kansas. When he came home after the war, he was on a stretcher and weighed 120 pounds. At one point, his temperature reached 108.7 degrees.

Faced with this terrible situation and the unanimously gloomy opinion of his doctors, many people, even most people, would have become disheartened and simply given up. But Bob Dole persevered, through more than three years of arduous recovery and through a lifetime of difficulty and hardship which he handled with this customary humor and grace. No one ever worked harder, complained less or laughed more than Bob Dole. And no one ever loved his country more or had a better appreciation of the honor and sacrifice of military service.

From the terrible trauma of his injuries, Bob Dole fought back and won elective office as county attorney, US Congressman, US Senator and Senate Majority Leader. He has been his party's nominee for Vice President and President. He even makes a pretty good VISA commercial! (Although his credit is not very good in that financial mega center—Russell.)

Also, no hero does it alone, and Janet and I also want to pay tribute to a lady of grace, charm and accomplishment who is Bob's partner, friend and wife—Elizabeth Dole. Elizabeth, thank you for your service to America.

I had the privilege of serving with Bob Dole in the legislative trenches of the U.S. Senate for 18 years. And I can tell you he remained a warrior eager to take on a new battle every day. He is and always will be an American Hero of the highest order.

Thanks to people like Bob Dole who have worked for a strong national defense, we are privileged to live in largely peaceful times where the sons of Bangor, Maine or Russell, Kansas are not being sent to fight and die on distant battlefields. The privilege of these peaceful times is made possible by the sacrifice of many thousands who have given their bodies and their lives in the cause of liberty.

We do not pause often enough to give tribute to the silent white gravestones which dot the hills of Arlington National Cemetery or give thanks to the heroes who are still among us. Today, as Secretary of Defense, it makes me extremely proud for our Department and our nation to pay tribute to a modest man of immodest talent—a person who has defined heroism and courage for millions of Americans.

The great American writer John Steinbeck once wrote that the best measure of one's time on this earth is the contribution each of us makes to the world around us. "There is," Steinbeck wrote, "no other story. A man, after he has brushed off the dust and chips of his life, will have left only the hard clean questions: Was it good or was it evil? Have I done well—or ill?"

For Second Lieutenant Bob Dole—Army Serial #17179287—Steinbeck's question is not a hard one. He has done well—he has served his nation with the highest distinction—he has remained a man with fire in his heart. And it is my highest privilege to award our highest civilian honor, the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service, to Bob Dole.

OREGON SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, I would like to take a brief mo-

ment to express my condolences to the families of the students killed and wounded during the tragic shooting yesterday at the Thurston High School in Springfield, Oregon.

The thoughts and prayers of all Americans today are with the families of Springfield. It is yet another community where lives have been shattered forever by children with easy access to firearms.

This attack was the fourth killing in a high school in the last six months by a youth under the age of 16. Mr. President, this killing must stop.

Last year, approximately 50% of all serious violent crimes were committed by teens against teens. Our nation's overall firearm-related death rate among children was nearly 12 times higher than among children in the other 25 industrialized countries combined.

This is an outrage. Mr. President, these horrific crimes amply demonstrate that we have a responsibility to oppose the proliferation of violence and to stand fast against any effort to make firearms more freely available. Does anyone still believe that it is possible to raise children in a society where guns are so easily obtained? We cannot continue to protect our children in such a world.

We must come together as a society and recommit ourselves to keeping firearms out of the hands of children and to guaranteeing that only those people who know how to use guns responsibly have access to them. We must expand programs to train gunowners in the proper use and storage of their weapons.

Responsible gunowners have nothing to fear from reasonable gun laws. We must have reasonable gun laws that will prevent tragedies like the one that happened yesterday in that small community in Oregon from ever happening again. The second amendment was never intended as a subterfuge for domestic carnage. Our living constitution can respond to changes in our society which jeopardize our freedom from fear and random violence by children. I think it is appropriate for us to have that debate, given the importance to our children, to their safety, to our liberty and freedom and safety in our communities.

JUDGE JOE ANDERSON'S REDEDICATION OF THE EDGEFIELD COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, the very foundation of our Nation lies in the rule of law, and there is perhaps no symbol more closely associated with the process of justice than the courthouse. Not only is the courthouse where justice is dispensed, but it is a reminder to all citizens that the judiciary is the third branch of our system of government.

Recently, the Edgefield County Courthouse was rededicated, and Judge Joe Anderson, of the South Carolina

District Court, was the keynote speaker at the ceremony. His remarks were very well received by the crowd and helped to make the event a great success. Though I was unable to attend this event, I heard from a number of friends who did that Judge Anderson's remarks were truly excellent. After requesting a copy of his speech, I came to the very same conclusion and thought that my peers in the Senate would enjoy reading them as much as I did.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of this speech be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Judge Keesley, Members of the County Council, other distinguished guests, and friends:

What a joy, what an honor, to have the privilege of being a part of this ceremony. I appreciate the opportunity you have given me to come home, and to show my appreciation. I promise not to afflict you with many words.

As one who spends all of my working hours in a courthouse building, I am honored to say a few brief words in rededication of this historic structure and what it has come to symbolize for our community.

Winston Churchill once said that the best measure of the quality of a society is the quality of its justice. America is distinguished from other countries by the quality of its law and how it is used by its people to expand liberty and opportunity. Our law represents our national dreams, our system of justice towards one another.

The assumptions that we make every day, the security we take for granted, the social compact that allows us to live together peacefully . . . these are the result of law. In rededicating this building we rededicate ourselves to the rule of law.

Courthouse buildings, of course, represent a symbol of permanence and the place where our laws are administered. It is here that our citizens are summoned to become actively involved in the public administration of justice—a privilege that citizens of most other countries do not enjoy. It is here that the cogs and gears of liberty function on a daily basis.

I have always thought that the rather nondescript term we use to describe these buildings—"courthouse"—does not adequately convey the importance of the work that goes on inside. The French use a more inspirational name: "Palace of Justice."

Regardless of the name by which it is called, no one can deny the role that our courthouse, our "Palace of Justice" has played in the development of our county. We are all indebted to Chairman Monroe Kneese and the members of our county council Betty Buter, Sam Speight, Daniel Bishop and Norman Dorn and County Administrator Wayne Adams for their foresight in recognizing the renovations and improvements that were needed. Their vision and hard work have brought this historic structure up to standards that will allow it to serve in the next millennium and beyond, while at the same time preserving all the charm and history that makes this building special for all of us. This ceremony is, in part, a tribute to their stewardship of one of the real crown jewels of our county. On occasions such as this, we ask God's blessing on their endeavors.

Today is one of those moments when we can pause, take a look at where we've been, where we are, and where we might be headed.