



FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL'S STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF SENATOR ROBERT DOLE

The Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) is deeply saddened by the passing of former Senator Bob Dole, the National Chairman of the WWII Memorial Campaign and the Chairman member of the Friends' [World War II Memorial Honorary Committee](#).

Friends' chairman Josiah Bunting III said of Senator Dole, "We have lost one of our greatest friends: an American patriot who served his country on the battlefield and helped lead his country in times of strife; but also in peace. He was an inspiration to all of us privileged to serve alongside him in our work. He embodied the best of the qualities we remember and cherish in those whose achievements the Friends exists to honor and preserve for rising generations of Bob Dole's countrymen."

A World War II veteran, Robert Dole was a platoon leader in the legendary Tenth Mountain Division in Italy. In 1945, he was gravely wounded on the battlefield and was decorated for heroic achievement, receiving two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star with one oak leaf cluster.

Recognized as one of our nation's towering political figures, Senator Dole had a distinguished record of public service that made a difference for America. His experience in national politics was second to none: Senate Majority Leader, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, his party's nominee for vice president, member of the U.S. House of Representatives, chairman of the Republican Party, a state legislator, and a county attorney. He resigned from the Senate in June 1996 to campaign as the Republican nominee for president.

Throughout his life, Senator Dole truly embodied the values of the "Greatest Generation" – as termed by Tom Brokaw – through his military service and his life of public service and philanthropy.

Senator Dole also played a crucial role in the construction of the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. In 1997, he was named the National Chairman of the World War II Memorial Campaign, which raised funds for the building of the National World War II Memorial primarily through private contributions. Thanks to Senator Dole's tireless work and dedication to the creation of this Memorial, the Memorial Campaign received more than \$197 million in cash and pledges, allowing construction to begin in 2001 and the Memorial to be completed in 2004.

In addition to chairing the World War II Memorial Campaign, Senator Dole also famously publicly defended the building of the World War II Memorial against those who opposed its addition to the National Mall. "They want to save the Mall," Senator Dole said, referring to opponents of the Memorial. "Well, we wanted to save the world. The Mall was part of the world. And we did our job."

Following the dedication of the National World War II Memorial, Senator Dole could be found at the southern entrance to the Memorial on most Saturday mornings, greeting his fellow World War II veterans and welcoming them to their Memorial. His presence and support will be sorely missed at the Memorial, but his legacy will live on.

The Friends of the National World War II Memorial has been honored by its longstanding association with Senator Bob Dole. We send our heartfelt condolences to the Dole family for this tremendous loss.

Rest in Peace, Sir.