

**Introduction of former United States Senator
and Presidential Candidate
Robert J. Dole**

It's been written that *'brave men earn the right to shape their own destiny.'*

I am honored to introduce a brave American who forged his own *destiny* on the fiery battlefields of war ... and, who *earned the right* to help forge the *destiny* of our great Nation on the legislative battlegrounds of Congress.

A child of the Great Depression, early on, young Robert J. Dole of Russell, Kansas embodied the bedrock values and quiet virtues of America's heartland.

On the battle-bloodied hills of World War II Italy, U.S. Army Second Lieutenant Robert J. Dole displayed the *bravery* that would earn him two Purple Hearts ... the Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster ... and the enduring gratitude of the American people.

For eight years as a Congressman, and almost three decades as a Senator in Democracy's greatest deliberative body, citizen-soldier Bob Dole safeguarded our common creed—*One Nation, under God*. And advanced our common trust—to keep America strong and free.

And as Presidential candidate, Bob Dole demonstrated the grit and grace ... the courage and conviction ... of a man touched by *destiny*.

As a soldier ... Senator ... and statesman, Robert J. Dole stands among the '*greatest*' of our Nation's beloved '*Greatest Generation*.'

His zest for life and passion for public service speak of a remarkable American ... And yet for all Bob Dole's achievements and accolades, I remain most moved by the Senator's words spoken at the recent dedication of the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas.

As he reflected on his years in the Congress ... his rise to the pinnacle of leadership in the Republican Party ... and his recurring role in representing our Nation in the courts and capitols of the world, Senator Dole quietly added that—*"No honor that has come my way has ever surpassed the pride I felt wearing my country's uniform."*

I am humbled to welcome a *brave man* whose *destiny* brought him the highest honor that can be bestowed on an American—the title of "*veteran*."

And I am honored to introduce to you, ladies and gentlemen—the Honorable Robert J. Dole.

