

*Remarks for  
Mississippi Ageless Heroes  
January 29, 2002*

Good afternoon. I am pleased to be with you today to honor some of Mississippi's finest – men and women who have truly made their marks as Ageless Heroes.

You know, Will Rogers once said, “we can't all be heroes, because somebody has to sit on the curb and clap as they go by.”

I'm proud to be sitting on the curb today, clapping for these heroes we honor today.

These individuals have done, and continue to do, so much for our state and communities.

I share their commitment to a better Mississippi, and together we can reach our shared hopes for better schools, better health care, and better jobs for our people.

The investments we make today in health care will mean a stronger Mississippi tomorrow.

The investments we make today in education will mean a smarter Mississippi tomorrow.

The investments we make today in jobs will mean a more secure Mississippi tomorrow.

And, as shown by our Ageless Heroes, the investments we make in each other today will impact the generations that follow – and there is no greater legacy we can leave.

As I was reading over the list of the Ageless Heroes we honor today, I noticed that the same words were used on several occasions to describe these great Mississippians – words like friendship, talent, satisfaction, challenge, opportunity, humor, and future.

These words are so much more than just a description of these 24 men and women being honored here.

They are also a description of the impact these people have had on those around them. In every community in Mississippi represented by these 24 people today – in Lula, in Starkville, in Raymond, in Liberty, in Waynesboro, and all the others – there are people who are better because their lives have been touched by one of our Ageless Heroes.

Oliver Wendell Holmes commented that people don't quit playing because they grow old; they grow old because they quit playing.

Mississippi's Ageless Heroes are playing at the top of their games, and it's a great thing to see.

It is altogether fitting and proper that we have another hero with us today.

Bob Dole was raised on the plains of western Kansas. He has earned national acclaim for his leadership in the United States Senate, and on behalf of the disadvantaged and Americans with disabilities, and for his master of foreign affairs.

He also has a personal history of service. During World War II, he was a platoon leader in the legendary 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division in Italy. In 1945, he was gravely wounded on the battlefield and was twice decorated for heroic achievement.

His decorations include two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster.

Today, he remembers and honors his fellow veterans by serving as chairman of the National World War II Memorial to be constructed on the Mall in Washington, DC.

Senator Dole is definitely a statesman who has made his mark. I'm pleased to welcome him here today to make his mark on the Mississippi Ageless Heroes program.

Please join me in welcoming the Honorable Robert J. Dole.



