

Subject: Commencement Speaker

Date: Thu, 29 Mar 2001 15:32:25 -0500

From: Paul Tribble <ptrible@cnu.edu>

To: everyone@cnu.edu

MEMORANDUM

TO: The University Community

FROM: Paul Tribble

DATE: March 29, 2001

I am pleased to announce that Bob Dole – one of the most respected political figures in America – will be our commencement speaker on May 12th at 10:00 a.m. on the Great Lawn of Christopher Newport University.

U.S. Senator, Senate Majority Leader, candidate for President of the United States, hero in World War II, Bob Dole's life exemplifies the qualities of service, excellence and achievement that we hope all of our graduates will aspire to emulate.

Chairman of the World War II Memorial Campaign, counsel to one of DC's top law firms, author of two best-selling books on political humor (*Great Presidential Wit, I Wish I Was In The Book and Great Political Wit, Laughing (Almost) All The Way To The White House*), a frequent guest on the late night talk show circuit and political commentator for the *Daily Show* with Jon Stewart, and Super Bowl commercial appearances for Pepsi-Cola, Bob Dole is part of the American landscape.

Bob Dole's candidacy for the White House in 1996 cemented his reputation as an honest, respected statesman who will long be considered one of the most powerful senators and brilliant legislators of our times. Senator Dole was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Clinton as a tribute to his character and contributions to the nation.

Of Dole as a Senate Majority Leader, Ronald Reagan said "his title of Leader is not just a job title, it's a description of the man." Bob Dole is one of only 16 Americans to serve as Senate Majority Leader, and his first stint in that position in the mid-1980's won praise nationwide. According to Congressional Quarterly, Senator Dole "proved a point that badly needed proving at the time: the Senate could be led."

The American public started seeing the lighter, entertaining side of Bob Dole's legendary sense of humor with his post-election appearances on *The Late Show* with David Letterman, *Saturday Night Live*, *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno, and *Late Night* with Conan O'Brien.

Bob Dole was raised on the plains of western Kansas and in his life accumulated political achievements second to none. In addition to becoming the Senate Majority Leader and candidate for President, he also served as Chairman of the powerful Senate Finance Committee, his party's nominee for Vice President and a member of the House of Representatives.

Bob Dole has also earned national acclaim for his leadership on behalf of the disadvantaged and Americans with disabilities, and for his mastery of foreign affairs.

Senator Dole also has a personal history of service. During the Second World War, he 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. His decorations include two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster. He is married to Elizabeth Hanford Dole.