



Gerald R. Ford

President Gerald R. Ford Medal for Distinguished Public Service

Elizabeth Dole

Elizabeth Dole has devoted her life to serving the American people with her many years of public service and dedication to making a difference.

Born in Salisbury, North Carolina, she graduated with distinction from Duke University, earned a law degree from Harvard Law School, and a Master of Arts in Teaching from Harvard University. She married Bob Dole in 1975 while serving in the Nixon administration on the Federal Trade Commission. In 1976, Elizabeth Dole helped her husband campaign for vice president on the Republican ticket with Gerald R. Ford.

Dole started her career in government service under President Johnson and continued work under Presidents Nixon, Reagan, and Bush. Throughout her time as U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Elizabeth Dole worked with the late Senator Frank Lautenberg and the late Senator Richard Luger to ensure enactment of the 21-year-old drinking age and helped enact the first state safety belt and air bag laws. As president of the American Red Cross, she restructured the way the Red Cross collects, tests, and distributes one-half of the nation's blood supply. Her actions have saved countless lives.

Elected to serve as senator in 2002, Elizabeth Dole became the first woman to represent North Carolina in the United States Senate. Throughout her career, Senator Dole has helped women and minorities break barriers.

Among her many awards, Senator Dole has received the Distinguished Service Medal from the American Legion; the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal, Department of the Army; the Military Officers Association of America's National Service Award; the Humanitarian Award from the National Commission Against Drunk Driving; and the Lifetime Achievement Award from Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety.

Throughout her extraordinary career, Senator Elizabeth Dole has demonstrated the personal and professional qualities exemplified by her dear friend President Gerald R. Ford – integrity, strength of character, diligence, patriotism, and sound judgement. She is indeed a worthy recipient of the President Gerald R. Ford Medal for Distinguished Public Service. Her dedication has made a difference in people's individual lives, our nation, and our world.

Washington, D.C.
June 27, 2022

/S/ Mike Ford

Chair

/S/ Roger Porter

Trustee