



Gerald R. Ford

President Gerald R. Ford Medal for Distinguished Public Service

Robert “Bob” Dole

Bob Dole devoted his life to serving the American people through military and public service.

Born in Russell, Kansas, he studied at the University of Kansas until he enlisted into the United States Army during World War II. Following his enlistment, Bob Dole studied at the University of Arizona in Tucson and transferred to Washburn University in Topeka where he graduated with both undergraduate and law degrees in 1952. He married Elizabeth Hanford in 1975 while serving in the United States Senate.

Elected to the Kansas House of Representatives in 1950, Bob Dole served a two-year term. He became the county attorney of Russell County prior to his 1960 election to the United States House of Representatives until 1969. Dole served as a United States Senator until 1996 when he resigned to focus on his presidential campaign. Bob Dole was the first sitting Senate Party Leader to receive his party's nomination for president. During his tenure in the Senate, he served as Majority Leader for two terms. In 1976, Dole ran as Gerald R. Ford's running mate for vice president.

Throughout his time as a Senator from Kansas, he worked with the late Senator George McGovern to pass legislation making food stamps and school lunches more accessible. This expanded school lunch programs; helped establish the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children; and created a federal assistance program for low-income pregnant women, breast-feeding women, and children under the age of five. With McGovern, Dole led the effort to simplify eligibility requirements.

Throughout his extraordinary career in public service, Senator Robert Dole demonstrated the personal and professional qualities exemplified by his dear friend President Gerald R. Ford – integrity, strength of character, diligence, patriotism, and sound judgement. While he has since passed, he is indeed a worthy recipient of the President Gerald R. Ford Medal for Distinguished Public Service. His 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