

**Bob Dole Chapter House Dedication**

May 21, 2022



## VIP Dinner

Friday, May 20, 2022

**6:00 pm**      **Cocktail Hour**

**7:00 pm**      **Seated for Dinner**

## Chapter House Dedication

Saturday, May 21, 2022

**11:30 am**      **Welcome Message & Dedication**

Nick Lombardi

*Chair, Gamma-Omicron Corp Board*

Maria Fisher

*Development Specialist, Dole Institute*

Adam Merrillat

*Worthy Grand Master, Kappa Sigma Fraternity*

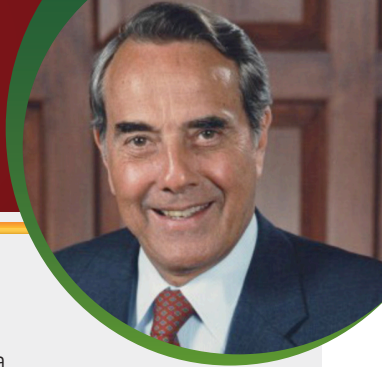
**12:00 pm**      **Lunch**

**2:00 pm**      **Dole Institute Tour**

*“Bob Dole is an American statesman  
like few in our history”*

**noted Pres. Joseph Biden, 2021**

# BIOGRAPHY



## Robert J. Dole

Hailing from Russell, Kansas, Bob Dole joined Kappa Sigma with a Russell friend and was initiated into the Gamma Omicron chapter in 1942. Bob played on KU's freshman football, basketball, and track teams, and waited tables at the fraternity house.




After Pearl Harbor he enlisted in the Army's rugged 10th Mountain Division, and was severely injured during the 1945 landing at Anzio, Italy by German shrapnel while attempting to save his unit's radio man. He lay on the battlefield for nine hours until rescued. He received the Bronze Star for Valor.

After three grueling years of recovery and loss of the use of his right arm, he entered public life, leading to:

- Candidate for U.S. President, 1996
- Candidate for U.S. Vice-President, 1976
- Two-time Senate Majority Leader
- Sponsored over 100 bills in the Senate, including establishment of the Martin Luther King Jr. National Holiday
- Worked with Democrat Senator Moynihan to develop and lead the "Social Security Rescue Plan"
- Sponsored and spearheaded the approval of the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom
- One of three American heroes awarded military promotions by the U.S. Congress (the other two, George Washington and George Rogers Clark)
- Championed the effort to design, fund, and construct the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.
- Following his Presidential campaign and retirement from politics, he greeted almost all of the "honor flights", carrying WWII service personnel to visit the National WWII Museum.

Bob Dole received many awards and honors from his fraternity, most notably as the only two-time recipient of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity National Man of the Year Award.

**Announcing**  
**KAPPA SIGMA MAN OF THE YEAR**  
**Senator Bob Dole**  
 U.S. Senator [Kansas]

**AT THE FOUNDERS' DAY BANQUET**  
 MUEHLEBACH HOTEL  
 KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI  
 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1970

Social Hour 5 pmDinner 6 pm

*For Reservations send check (\$10) to:*

*Please make checks payable to  
 Kansas City Founders' Banquet*

**W. RALPH WARNER**  
 COLUMBIA-UNION NATIONAL BANK  
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 KANSAS CITY, MO. 64142

## 1970 MOY Presentation Speech

*as given by Harold R. Fatzer, Justice of the Kansas Supreme Court*

We meet this evening to pay tribute to a unique man who is a member of Kappa Sigma. He has been awarded the highest honor our National Fraternity can bestow — "Kappa Sigma Man of the Year". My first words must be words of congratulations to Senator Robert J. Dole, United States Senator from Kansas, and his wife, Phyllis, and their daughter, Robin.

The honor which has been conferred upon Senator Dole is indeed a highly coveted one. When one stops to consider the many eminent members of Kappa Sigma throughout the breadth and length of our land to whom this coveted award might be justly given, all of us who know Bob Dole so well and have such high respect for him, feel extremely grateful. We congratulate the National Fraternity for selecting such a prominent and outstanding member of Kappa Sigma to receive this award. All Midwest Kappa Sigs heartily concur in the Supreme Executive Committee's selection of Bob Dole as the Kappa Sigma Man of the Year.

Bob Dole's character was nurtured in the rich heritage of Kansas. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Doran R. Dole, of Russell. He grew up in a comfortable home where there were always plenty of good books and instructive conversation. His two fine parents believed with all their soul in what was right and decent, and who were unswerving in their determination that Bob should receive a good

education. Russell is a Kansas town where people put their roots down deep into the soil of an America they love – a town where it isn't considered "nosy" to be interested in your neighbors and concerned about them in time of trouble.

Bob had a fortunate boyhood in a blessed land typical of the boyhood of many Kansans. He helped his father operate a feed and produce business in Russell while attending grade and high school. As Russell Townsley wrote, "He could heave a sack of grain and swing a can of cream as easy as anyone else." He was an avid sportsman and athlete in high school. There were roads in the country along which a boy could ride his bicycle to the banks of the Smoky Hill to catch sunperch and bullheads, and swim in the river. There were miles of buffalo grass and rippling wheat fields under the brassy prairie sky; there were jackrabbits to be hunted, and wild game to be trapped, and occasionally the yapping of a coyote could be heard in the night. There were the great oil pools of Russell County which were discovered and developed during Bob's younger years. There was the pageantry of the harvest. In his early years, there were the endless stacks of golden wheat, and the great steam threshing rigs chugging down the road. Later, there were the combines which harvested the golden grain. And in the late afternoon of many crisp autumn days, the whole western quadrant of the heavens, from earth to zenith, flamed with such majesty that some dim comprehension of the infinite entered even into the heart of a young boy.

I have been told that some scientists have said the brilliance of Kansas sunsets is caused by dust in the air, but it seems to me that this dreary explanation is both unworthy and untenable. Obviously, there are times when science must be ignored. The Almighty gave sunsets to the high plains of Kansas for the same reason that He gave the rolling Atlantic surf to the Eastern seaboard, the noble blaze of fall foliage to New England, and snowy mountain peaks to the far west.

Later, and following graduation from the Russell high school in 1941, Bob attended the University of Kansas for two years where he became a member of Gamma-Omicron of Kappa Sigma. As a freshman he earned numerals in basketball, football and track, and lettered as a quarter-miler in his sophomore year.

But the war came to America, and Bob entered Military service in June, 1943. He was selected for Officers' Training the next year. He was assigned to the 10th Mountain Division as platoon leader in February 1945. When the American Army was pushing across Italy's Po Valley, he was wounded twice. The first was a grenade sliver in his leg while on night patrol. He received the Purple Heart for this wound.

It was his conduct under fire and the second wound that earned him the Bronze Star and another Purple Heart. I now quote from the remarks of the Honorable Donald Rumsfeld, Congressman from Illinois, entered in the Congressional Record, Monday, April 1, 1968, entitled, "Congressman Bob Dole: Midwesterner on the Rise."

"Dole is reminded of that early April morning in 1945 [when] he decided to lead a squad to wipe out a German machine gun nest, instead of assigning a sergeant to the task.

He saw two of his companions killed by mortar shells, before his radioman fell under a hail of machine gun bullets. Crawling under heavy fire, Dole dragged the wounded radioman to cover.

He then left a shell hole to get close enough to toss a hand grenade at the Germans. He was hit by machine gun bullets and mortar fragments and was blown back into the shellhole.

Dole waited on the battlefield for hours for medics to arrive. His arms and legs were paralyzed and he thought his arms were missing because he could not see them. They were stretched over his head.

The army awarded him the bronze star with cluster, hailing his 'persistence, fearless leadership, and personal daring,' and a promotion to captain, but it could not give him back the use of his right arm."

X-ray revealed that Bob's right shoulder and arm had been shattered, and neck vertebrae had been fractured. His spinal cord was damaged and both arms and legs were paralyzed. Thereafter followed 39 months of hospitalization in Italy, Africa, Florida, Kansas, and Michigan.

When Bob arrived at Winter General Hospital in Kansas in June, 1945, he was in a cast from his ears to his hips. He was down to 122 pounds, and with his right arm in body cast and his left arm and hand still useless, he took his first steps. He was transferred to Percy Jones General Hospital in Battle Creek, Michigan, where he was put on the critical list again. This time he had a series of blood clots in his lungs. He became a "guinea pig" for streptomycin, then a new wonder drug. He was one of four patients to receive the medication — and it worked.

Probably one of the greatest tributes of Bob's hometown people was when they learned of the urgent need for specialized operations. The people of Russell raised nearly \$1800 to pay for the operations which could not be performed in an Army hospital. Bob had heard of an eminent surgeon in Chicago "who could perform miracles." In a series of operations in Chicago's Wesley Memorial Hospital, Dr. Kelikian transplanted bone and muscle from Bob's leg to his right shoulder and arm. His right shoulder joint was removed, and his right arm shortened and attached to the remaining portion of his shoulder by the leg muscle covering. Dr. Kelikian had lost a brother in the war and he would not accept a fee for his services, so the contribution from Bob's hometown friends paid the hospital bill.

While recovering from this surgery, he met Phyllis Holden, a registered occupational therapist from Farmington, New Hampshire, a graduate of New Hampshire University, and a Chi Omega. She was employed at Percy Jones Hospital at the time. They were married June 12, 1948, and they have one daughter, Robin.

Bob slowly regained the partial use of his left hand and arm – he overcame adversity because he just wouldn't give up. He was discharged from the Army with the rank of Captain in 1948, and then enrolled in the University of Arizona. Phyllis attended classes to take notes as Bob was not yet able to write with his left hand. She wrote his examination papers from his dictation. In the fall of 1949, Bob entered Washburn University at Topeka to complete his A.B. degree and to obtain his L.L.B. degree under the GI Bill of Rights. He then used a recorder in the classrooms, transcribing the records by hand each night. He still dictated his examination papers to Phyllis, and when he took the Kansas Bar Examination on February 11, 1952, he dictated his answers to her.

Bob received his first baptism of public service in 1950, while a student at Washburn University. He was elected to the House of Representatives from Russell County on the Republican ticket. Bob was graduated from the Washburn Law School in 1952, magna cum laude. The same year, he was elected to the first of four two-year terms as Russell County Attorney.

During his first two terms as County Attorney, I was the Attorney General of Kansas, and I considered Bob one of the most able and diligent County Attorneys of the state. His work in the Kansas Supreme Court was commendable, and his briefs and abstracts were timely prepared, concise, and to the point. My research indicates Bob established quite an appellate record in the Supreme Court-of the several cases he presented, he won them all!

In the area of politics, Bob is an impregnable candidate—there was never an election in which he was a candidate that he ever lost. His intense desire for public service commenced while he was a member of the 1951 Kansas Legislature. His adult life has been dedicated to public service and his widespread interest in others has been reflected in his years as service officer for the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars in Russell, his work with young people through the Russell County 4-H Fair Association, and in Boy Scout and Girl Scout area and regional posts. He served as United States Congressman from the Kansas Sixth District, now reapportioned into the state's First Congressional district. Bob moved from the House to the Senate because he convinced the city voters of Kansas he would serve them as well as he had served the farmers. His record in the House and in the Senate is recognized far beyond the borders of Kansas.

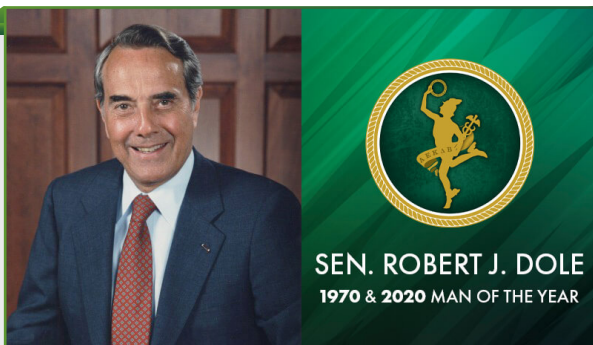
Bob Dole has always been grateful of the fact he grew up in the Midwest. The Midwest has something highly important to contribute to the policies and the culture of this country. It has a solid point of view; a firm attachment to the

basic philosophy on which our Nation was founded, that is desperately needed in these chaotic times. Its people are American to the core, and I hasten to add I am speaking of the Americanism of Washington and Lincoln; not the spurious, hate-the-other-guy doctrine which some of the far left cults choose to call Americanism.

There is something in the attitude of Midwesterners — to a greater degree, I think, than in the people of some other regions — which we need more of in America. I am not quite sure what that “something” is, but I think it is a positive sense of direction. Perhaps it is a stubborn refusal to be stampeded away from the ancient verities of life by a phony sophistication. What I’m trying to say, which Bob Dole clearly illuminates, is that there is something in the culture and atmosphere of the Midwest which makes us feel comfortable and compatible with our convictions with our belief in the fundamentals of the American credo. Bob Dole has been exposed to this atmosphere throughout his life and he is Exhibit A of this kind of Americanism. Kansans exhibit this solid Midwest viewpoint, and Bob Dole and the Midwest area of the country are rapidly making great strides on the stage of activities of our national policies.

I have observed that all leaders, local and national, have an art of winning men. And so does Bob Dole. He is a modest man. He has the confidence and unswerving loyalty of the people of Kansas because he makes decisions based upon his good judgment and sticks to them. He takes responsibility when it is thrust upon him. He has moved into the king row in orderly fashion with the ambition to serve his state and nation, to make his private opinions public sentiment, and press for necessary reforms. He is saturated with the solid Midwest point of view and will contribute immeasurably to the welfare of the nation and the state. His practical and unusual grasp of the meaning of the common affairs of man will result in his making a substantial contribution to the leadership of this country. An eminent Senator, a kind and gentle man, he follows the great men of the Senate who have in turn made and kept untainted the high tradition of that great body, which has stood in the past, as it stands now, and must always in the future, the strong and supporting column in the temple of a free republic. Thus, we pay homage to Bob Dole, Kappa Sigma Man of the Year, a modest American, a member of the United States Senate, a loyal member of Kappa Sigma, an able statesman, a unique man.





## An Excerpt from Bob Dole's 2020 Man of the Year Announcement

*[www.kappasigma.org](http://www.kappasigma.org)*

The Kappa Sigma Fraternity has named United States Senator Robert J. Dole its 2020 Man of the Year, making him the first member of the Fraternity to receive the award twice. The announcement took place this past weekend as part of its 73rd Biennial Grand Conclave held in Nashville, Tenn. Brother Dole was initiated into the Gamma-Omicron Chapter of Kappa Sigma at the University of Kansas on October 4th, 1942.

Brother Dole was decorated as the Kappa Sigma Man of the Year in 1970 and was inducted to the Kappa Sigma Hall of Honor in 2009 as the 14th Brother in the history of Kappa Sigma to be decorated with this significant honor. Brother Dole was named the 2020 Kappa Sigma Man of the Year at the 73rd Biennial Grand Conclave in Nashville, Tennessee, becoming the first Brother ever to win the Man of the Year Award twice.

The 2020 award was accepted on Brother Dole's behalf by fellow Kappa Sigma Man of the Year Martin C. Petersen, former Executive Director of the Central Intelligence Agency and treasurer of Kappa Sigma's International Board of Directors, who received the award in 2006. The award was also presented to Dole's home chapter, the Gamma-Omicron Chapter at the University of Kansas.

"Kappa Sigma has always represented responsibility, kindness and service to others – qualities that have shaped my life in nearly eight decades as a Brother," Senator Dole said in his acceptance letter. "To have been selected as the Kappa Sigma Fraternity Man of the Year on two separate occasions is a significant honor that means a great deal to me."

"Brother Dole represents one of the greatest statesmen and public servants that the United States and the State of Kansas have ever known," said Adam J. Merillat, president of Kappa Sigma's international board of directors. "Brother Dole has accomplished so much since he was first awarded the Kappa Sigma Man of the Year Award in 1970. Kappa Sigma is grateful for his service and privileged to again honor Brother Dole with this award."

# BROTHER MEMORIES



**From Matt Noble '84, (Gamma-Rho):**

*"My son is now 26 and a Kappa Sigma brother"*

**From Mike Helbert '70 (Gamma-Omicron):**

*I had the pleasure of being an intern for Senator Dole in the summer of 1970. We rarely got to see him because he was also the Chairman of the Republican Party at that time. That summer was after all of the incidents and civil unrest of the spring of 1970. He was always gracious and his staff was incredibly loyal to him. One of the things I remember the most is when he took all of his interns to lunch at the U.S. Senate dining room. While we were there we were introduced to several Senators who were all gracious to us but also very friendly to each other. Senator Dole introduced us to Senator Inouye, who like Senator Dole was a war hero. Inouye, a Democrat, served in the all Japanese unit that was the most decorated unit in World War II. Inouye joked with Dole in front of us saying that "yeah, Dole got wounded in the arm but at least he got to keep his." Inouye lost his whole arm. He and Dole both chuckled about it and you could tell that there was great respect for each other and a deep friendship that meant a lot to both of them. Senator Magnuson, another Democrat, also came over and introduced himself and he and Dole traded good natured barbs. It was watching the greatest generation at work. The dedication that Senator Dole had to his country and to our democracy was special. I was lucky to have had the experience.*

# BROTHER MEMORIES

## From Craig Lowden '96 (Gamma-Rho):

*I was a pledge at the University of Arizona in Spring of '96 when Brother Dole was on the campaign trail. While in Tucson he wanted to do "a kegger", which naturally was downgraded to standard burgers and grilled chicken sandwiches – less fun, but better optics for that Presidential run.*



*Briefly passed by him, had my pledge paddle at the house (signed by the SEC when they visited earlier in the semester) but not with me at that moment. Lost my shot at a signature, as well as my spot in the group photo as I was a pledge and was a Navy Vet and thus was assigned to work with the Secret Service and play bouncer/gatekeeper at the front door for pretty much the duration of the event.*

## Michael J. McNally '64 (Gamma-Omicron):

*As the 1966 summer rush chairman for Gamma-Omicron, I had occasion to visit the homes of prospective pledges all over the State of Kansas. We generally met with the prospects' families in their homes where we made the pitch for Kappa Sigma. Winning the support for the parents was often the key to closing the deal with the prospect. With the help of our rush scrapbook, we were able to present a positive image of fraternity life in general and of Kappa Sigma in particular. The problem was that often other fraternities were rushing the same top prospects and promoting similar success. Yes, the competition also had varsity jocks, serious scholars, campus politicians, successful alums, reassuring housemothers and good-looking dates. But we had a big picture of Brother Bob Dole on the last page of our scrapbook. Without exception, all of the parents knew about Bob's heroism in the Second World War, his grievous injuries sustained while attacking an entrenched German position, his lengthy and determined rehabilitation and his honorable service in the United States Congress. Brother Bob's association with us established an immediate respect and credibility for our fraternity and served as a powerful but unspoken closing argument for my presentation. Thank you, Bob.*

# BROTHER MEMORIES



From Alex Alcantara '93 (Gamma-Rho)

## From Steve Klemp '63 (Gamma-Omicron):

*Absolutely. Dole's integrity was unique even 30-40 years ago. Members of Congress, when officially visiting foreign countries, are authorized a generous per diem, paid to them by the U.S. embassy. If they are lodged/fed at embassy expense (which is usually the case), they are supposed to return the per diem. Among dozens of congressional delegations I handled in a variety of countries, Dole was the ONLY one who ever returned the money. Hats off to Bob!*

*That aside, my catch-up news: my wife K.D. and I (we met as greenhorn Foreign Service Officers both assigned in Monrovia, Liberia in 1973) live in Arlington, Virginia. We've been retired for many years but still keep plenty busy with a variety of things, in my case, charitable work, particularly through the Rotary Club of Arlington, and some work with a couple of the retirement homes in the area.*

*As a student of politics, I find the current political gridlock and extreme partisanship a bit worrisome, but am a little encouraged by recently reading *The Age of Acrimony*, about the period of about 1880- 1910, when exactly the same kinds of political behavior were occurring. If we got past it then, there must be a way that we can get past it now, SO maybe there is hope?*



# BROTHER MEMORIES



## From William Kiper '76 (Gamma-Omicron):

*I used to be President of the Kansas County Commissioners' Association.*

*Bob and I were friends, I was there when he declared his candidacy for President in Russell. He offered me this advice.*

*When you are talking to crowds remember this story. I was speaking at a rally and I asked "can everyone hear me?" A man in the back yelled "I can't." I was just about to respond when a woman in the front yelled "I can hear him. I will trade places with you."*



*From Bob and Elizabeth visit to the Dole Institute in Lawrence, May, 2009 -  
featuring our house mother Patricia Harbaugh (white top, lower right).*

# BROTHER MEMORIES



*From Bob and Elizabeth visit to the Dole Institute in Lawrence, May, 2009 - featuring Dole and Margaret Shirk (wife of Gamma-O initiate, David Shirk '38)*



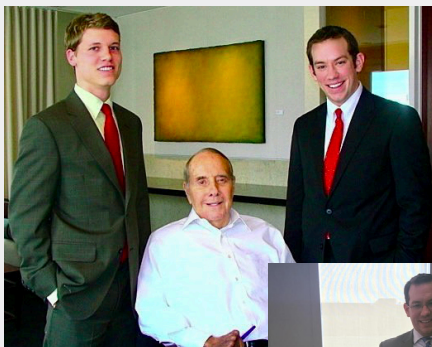
*From Bob and Elizabeth visit to the Dole Institute in Lawrence, May, 2009 - featuring Above: Cory Sims '04 (Gamma-Omicron) and Todd Witt '07 (Gamma-Omicron);*



*Right: Dole with Max Faulkenstein, the color commentator for KU basketball for 60 years*



# BROTHER MEMORIES



## From Daniel Heady '07 (Gamma-Omicron):

*I first met Senator Dole when I was interning in Washington, DC. I was a student at KU spending my last semester with the University's Washington Internship Program. After meeting with the entire internship program he asked to meet the two Kappa Sigs in the room once the larger group had left. My pledge brother, Andy Franke, and I got to spend a few minutes with him, he said he didn't care if we behaved or not, but wanted to make sure that they guys were kind to the house mom.*

*I was fortunate enough to spend time with him as my career developed. In 2016 while I was working for Kansas Wheat I got to sit with him for over an hour, just the two of us, talking politics, family, basketball, and swapping stories (his were better than mine). It felt like two guys shooting the breeze on a Friday afternoon. What I remember most about that conversation was he wanted me to tell my grandfather thank you for serving in the Marine Corps and to tell my wife thank you for letting me spend time away to work on behalf of Kansas farmers.*

*We interacted and exchanged emails a few times after that, in 2018 we lobbied in support of his Congressional Gold Medal, and also gave him a lifetime "Friend of Wheat" award. When we presented him with the wheat award he told us he thought the guys from Russell would think that was a big deal. The last correspondence I got from him was a thank you note regarding some work we did on advancing food aid programs (named after him). If there is one thing I want everyone to know about Bob Dole is that he doesn't sign his emails with sincerely, or warmest regards, but with God Bless America. He was man who truly loved Kansas, the United States, and public service.*





Not for an hour...  
a day... or college term  
only... but for life.

