

For Immediate Release
8/17/04

McGovern to receive 2004 Dole Leadership Prize

Senator Robert Dole and the Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas today announced that former Senator and 1972 Democratic Presidential Candidate George McGovern will receive the second Dole Leadership Prize. McGovern, a World War II fighter pilot, author, statesman, and one of the world's leading experts on the fight to eradicate hunger, will receive the award in a public ceremony at the Lied Center on September 13.

"I can't imagine anyone more deserving of such recognition than my colleague George McGovern," said Dole, the former Senate Majority Leader and 1996 Republican presidential nominee. "His lifetime of distinguished service to the nation and the world is an inspiration to so many people in public life. He is a man who from his youngest days has been unafraid to lead and to search for answers to the most complex political questions."

McGovern was born in Avon, South Dakota on July 19, 1922, the son of a Methodist clergyman. As a pilot of a B-24 bomber based in Italy during World War II, he flew 35 missions and was decorated with the Distinguished Flying Cross. He then earned a Ph.D. in History and Government at Northwestern University and served as Professor of History at Dakota Wesleyan University.

In 1956 McGovern was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where he served until 1960 when President John F. Kennedy appointed him first Director of the U.S. Food for Peace Program and Special Assistant to the President. Elected to the U.S. Senate in 1962, he was re-elected in 1968 and 1974. In 1972 Senator McGovern was the Democratic nominee for President. In 1998 he was appointed U.S. Ambassador to the UN Food and Agricultural Agencies by President Clinton. He has taught and lectured at more than 1,200 American colleges and universities and numerous European, Asian, and Latin American universities. He is the author of eight books, including the recently-published *The Essential America: Our Liberal Tradition*.

For Senator Dole, the event marks an opportunity to honor a long-time political opponent who is also a close friend. "Senator McGovern and I have a lot in common. We both served in Italy in the Second World War. We both represented Midwestern states in the Senate. And we both came up short in the race for the Presidency after winning our party's nominations."

The Dole Prize, which carries with it a \$25,000 stipend (the gift of an anonymous donor; no state or university funds are involved) is one of several signature programs at the Dole Institute. Last year's recipient was former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. The Dole Lecture, delivered each spring on or near the date Senator Dole was

wounded in World War II, was inaugurated last spring by former President Bill Clinton. The Presidential Lecture Series, which for the previous two years has taken place in November, will be moving to President's Week in February beginning in 2005. In its place, the Institute will present a month-long series of programs based on a theme. This year's theme is "political humor," and events will include lectures, panels, and performances by leading political figures, writers, comedians and artists.

The Dole Institute, established at KU in 1997 to honor the former Senate majority leader and presidential nominee, is designed to encourage student participation and citizen involvement in public service. The Institute houses Dole's papers – the world's largest collection associated with a congressional leader. It also features a 3,300-square-foot auditorium and visitor's center, a 120-seat seminar room/media center, KU's first satellite uplink, and extensive exhibits including the building's signature 29-by-12 stained glass American flag. Visit the Institute's web site at www.doleinstitute.org.