

Iconic Statue

Sen. Dole's legacy honored on Washburn's campus.

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Sen. Bob Dole, BA '52, JD '52, H '69, H '85, was honored on Washburn University's campus in late September with a bronze statue recognizing a life of public service.

“Sen. Dole's honorable career as a public servant embodies what we want Washburn students to reflect on while they are receiving their education. His career was built on service to others, to the country, and to the world, and what can be achieved when we focus on finding common ground,” said Jerry Farley, president, Washburn University. “We are thankful for his leadership at Washburn and in the state of Kansas. We were honored to celebrate his life achievements with the dedication of the statue.”

During World War II, Dole suffered devastating injuries while trying to help a fellow soldier. He was later awarded two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star for his service. He has developed a worldwide reputation for public service, holding elected positions in the Kansas House of Representatives, as Russell County (Kan.) attorney and as U.S. congressman before spending nearly 30 years as U.S. senator. He was chair of the Republican National Committee, Senate Minority Leader and Senate Majority Leader, where he set a record as the longest-serving Republican leader. Dole was President Gerald Ford's vice presidential running mate in 1976 and a Republican presidential candidate in both 1988 and 1996, earning the GOP nomination in 1996. He served as national chair of the World War II Memorial Campaign and has been a strong advocate for veterans and the disabled. In January, Dole was honored with the Congressional Gold Medal, Congress' highest civilian honor.

Washburn conferred on him an honorary doctor of law in 1969 and an honorary doctor of civil law in 1985. He received the Washburn Alumni Association Distinguished Service Award in 1966. The Washburn University School of Law honored him with the Alumni Association Distinguished Service Award in 1981 and the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2007.

The Washburn University School of Law houses the Robert J. Dole Center for Law and Government, where a professorship was also established in his name. A special scholarship bearing his name is designated for law students with disabilities. He served 11 years as a trustee of the Washburn University Foundation and has served as trustee emeritus since 1998.



Sen. Bob Dole, BA '52, JD '52, H '69, H '85, during his bronze statue unveiling. Photo by Doug Stremel

The statue is a gift to Washburn University from **John Pinegar, BA '82**, and the Doug and **Kathleen, BBA '84, Smith** family and is located north of stately Carnegie Hall on Washburn's campus.

“We felt it was very important for Sen. Dole to be recognized on Washburn University's campus because of the strong influence the University has had in a positive and impactful way on his life and also as an inspiration for students today and students in future years,” Pinegar said.

Dole currently serves as special counsel in the Washington, D.C., office of Alston & Bird LLP, a leading national and international law firm.