THE DAILY —DISPATCH

1995 Indianapolis National Convention — TUESDAY, SEPT. 5

Dole warns against 'elitism'

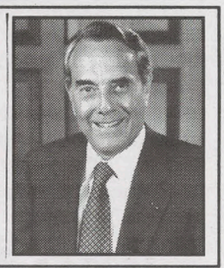
The same crowd of cultural elitists who oppose protecting the flag and distort America's role in World War II are struggling to "educate" America's young people. The Republican's presidential frontrunner Monday warned young Americans to be on their guard.

"America must be in their hearts as well as their heads. For it takes just one generation to snap the chain of freedom, one generation for a nation based on an idea to forget who we are," presidential candidate Sen. Robert Dole said Monday, addressing Legionnaires at their 77th National Convention.

Dole found a sympathetic audience for a speech in which he called for making English America's official language; for teaching young Americans to learn about their country's positive qualities as well as its warts; and embracing traditional American values. Legionnaires applauded as Dole lashed into what he called the nation's "academic and cultural elites."

"Today, even Japan has finally apologized for its atrocities and aggression, so maybe it's time the embarrassed-about-America crowd gets the message, too: We're proud of our country, and we won't put up with our tax dollars being used to drag it down or sow doubt about the nobility of America in the minds of our children," he said.

"America must be in their hearts as well as their heads."



Dole, a World War II Army veteran who suffered serious combat wounds in Italy, praised his fellow WW II veterans, whom he hailed as "freedom's heroes and American patriots." He said the flap with Smithsonian Institution officials over the display of the B-29 *Enola Gay* highlights a fundamental battlefield in the struggle between the revisionist crowd and the majority of Americans.

He said most Americans still guide their lives by traditional values: love of God and country, and family; commitment to honesty, decency and personal responsibility; self-reliance but dedication to one's community. Dole said those qualities are in play in the campaign to protect the U.S. Flag.

The Kansas native and member of Post 99 is a co-sponsor of **Senate Joint Resolution 31**, the flag amendment bill. He told Legionnaires the flag embodies the nation's ideals and warrants special protection under the Constitution, and said the Senate likely will consider the measure this year *(see story below)*.

In his remarks Dole also called for an end to

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PLEDGE OF LEGION'S

■ Legion delegates urged to double their efforts as flag amendment heads to Senate

"It's your flag and it's your fight – and we can win this issue if we just keep at it."

That's what National Commander William Detweiler urged American Legion delegates to do as the battle nears to secure passage of the flag amendment in the Senate, which is expected to vote on the measure later this year.

Recent polls commissioned by the Citizens Flag Alliance show that most Americans continue to believe the flag-desecration is wrong and that they support a constitutional amendment to protect it.

How senators vote on the flag amendment also may have a bearing on how citizens vote in future congressional elections. According to the findings of a poll by The Tarrance Group late last July, 19 percent of those surveyed said that a candidate's position on the flag amendment will determine how they vote in the 1996 election.

"This has become a political issue with many citizens," said Detweiler, "and they are not going to forget where their elected lawmakers stood on the issue."

Currently, 56 senators have signed on as cosponsors of **Senate Joint Resolution 31**, a bill that would allow the Congress and states to enact and enforce flag-protection laws. It takes two-thirds of the Senate, 67 votes, to clear a constitutional amendment.

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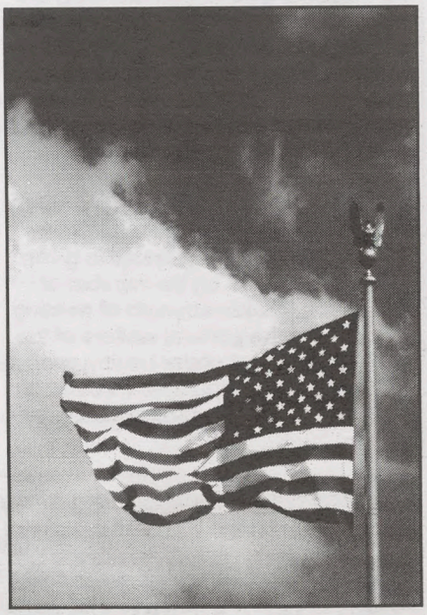

War and remembrance – Legion style

The *Voices* of World War II heroes sounded through the hall Monday at the opening of the 77th American Legion National Convention.

"Memories of War" accompanied a video show of vintage war-time clips from those momentous years, 1941-45. Excerpts from *Voices: Letters from World War II* published by The American Legion in 1991, chronicled the lives of those who served at the front and on the homefront. Special World War II commemorative programs also will open the Tuesday and Wednesday convention sessions.

National Commander William Detweiler led the welcome for delegates and introduced movie and television star Dale Robertson, an Army veteran who served in the European theater as a member of the 322nd Combat Engineers Battalion attached to the 3rd Army.

Robertson said he had no background in engineering, but he was schooled by wartime necessity and learned to build roads, bridges and fortifications.

Robertson recalled his days playing American Legion baseball as a young man and attending military school in Claremore, Okla., before entering service.

"I always looked up to and admired The American Legion and what it stood for," said Robertson, who didn't get out of the hall before signing up with the nation's largest veterans organization. But the World War II combat veteran feels succeeding generations may forget to uphold some of the values his generation went to war to preserve.

"I'm not sure everything we fought for is still in place," Robertson said, bringing a rousing, affirmative cheer from the audience.

Various dignitaries brought greetings to Legionnaires attending the three-day convention. Indiana Department Commander Thomas Henderson, Post 94, Valporaiso, Ind., welcomed delegates to the Hoosier State, and urged them to enjoy the fabled Hoosier hospitality. Henderson also thanked his fellow Hoosier Legionnaires for pitching in to "do a five-year job in six months" in handling logistics needed to stage a national gathering of Legionnaires. Detweiler praised the efforts of Hoosier Legionnaires charged with organizing the 1995 event, headed by Gilbert Sheeks, president of Legion's National Convention Corporation of Indiana, and member of Post 250, Mitchell.

GOV. EVAN BAYH

Indiana Gov. Evan Bayh, paraphrasing a request from a local minister who introduced him recently, promised delegates that in his remarks he would be, "strong today, not long today." The governor noted, as did Indianapolis Mayor Steven Goldsmith later, that evidence of the high regard Hoosiers hold veterans is apparent all over the city.

"We are proud of your service, and it's an unending source of pride to us to have your National Headquarters here," Bayh told the Legion crowd. He mentioned the presence of Monument Circle in the city's heart, dedicated to Civil War veterans; of the Indiana War Memorial a few blocks north of the circle and the southern anchor of the Indiana World War Memorial Plaza, which includes The American Legion National Headquarters. Last month, the city became the site of the newest national memorial, honoring the crew of the *USS Indianapolis*.

National Commander Detweiler introduced delegates to his family members attending the convention, and extended greetings to a special Legionnaire from Alabama, 99-year-old Charley Cook.

Cook, a member of Scottsboro Post 30, is a World War I veteran who served aboard the *USS Huntington*, a cruiser which escorted troop ships to Europe in 1917-18. He joined The American Legion in 1928 and was making his first appearance at a National Convention.

"I told a newspaper man in Huntsville that I was going to make headlines because I probably wasn't going to make it the convention next year," said Cook. No one was taking odds against the spry, talkative Alabaman, who earned his post-war living as a farmer. ❑

Education, Scouting awards presented

Two American Legion Departments have earned kudos from the National Americanism Commission.

During the first business session of the National Convention Monday, the Department of Florida was presented with the Ralph T. O'Neil Education Award for 1995. The award is given annually to the Department showing the greatest Americanism activity in the use of The American Legion School Medal Award.

The Department of Maryland was honored with the Frank N. Belgrano Award. The Scouting award is given each year, based on the number of troops organized; strength of existing troops; and the general welfare of the Scout movement under Legion sponsorship within the Department, based on written reports with substantiating evidence.

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Ohio wins C&Y top honors

The National Commission on Children & Youth has announced several awards for 1995, following the commission's meeting last week.

The Garland Murphy Jr. Award winner is the Department of Ohio. The award is given annually to the Department contributing the most money to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. Individual names are C&Y chairpersons:

Chairman of the Year Awards

Region 1 no entries; Region 2 Maryland (Peter Randall); Region 3 Florida (Dennis Boland); Region 4 Oklahoma (Gene Duncan); Region 5 Wisconsin (Daniel Kellett); Region 6 no entries; Region 7 Nevada (Helen Jenkins); and Region 8, no entries.

Boland was named C&Y chairman of the year.

Winners of the C&Y annual V.I.S.I.O.N. awards:

Region 1

Category 1 Folcomb-Woods-Budaj Unit 199, Conn.; Category 2 Gensi-Viola Post 35, Conn.; Region 3 Trumbull Post 141, Conn.; Corcoran-Sundquist Post 83, Conn.

Region 2

Category 1 Mineola Memorial Unit 349, N.Y.; Category 2 First Ward Unit 1254, N.Y.; Category 3 no entries; Category 4 Hughes-Skiba Post 535, N.Y.

Region 3

Category 1 Auxiliary Memorial Unit 347, Fla.; Category 2 Weeki-Wachee Post 208, Fla.; Category 3 J. Frank Cavanaugh Post 67, Fla.; Category 4 Lakeshore Post 137, Fla.

Region 4

Category 1 Cherokee Village Unit 346, Ariz.; Category 2 Claude Sims Unit 68, Ariz.; Categories 3 and 4 no entries

Region 5

Category 1 James G. Delaney Unit 461, Wis.; Category 2 Cy-Weber Unit 18, Wis.; Category 3 Stuart G. Lugenbuhl Post 34, Ohio; Category 4 Greendale Post 416, Wis.

Region 6

Category 1 no entries; Category 2 Fred F. Sturdevant Post 34, Neb.; Categories 3 and 4 no entries

Region 7

Category 1 Helen Haskell Post 702, Calif.; Category 2 Tollhouse Post 350, Calif.; Category 3 James McDermott Post 172, Calif.; Category 4 Alvin-Myo-Dunn Post 365, Calif.

Region 8

Category 1 Hollywood Post 205, Ore.; Category 2 Woodburn Post 46, Ore.; Category 3 Frederic & John Ravin Post 134, Ore.; Category 4 Santiam Post 51, Ore. ❑

5 million ways to educate our students

The term, "A Grateful Nation Remembers" usually refers to America's gratitude to its World War II veterans. Monday, the Republic of Korea's largest corporation expressed its gratitude to America's Korean War veterans.

On July 26, corporate officials announced at a Capitol Hill press conference creation of the "Samsung/American Legion Scholar" program. Samsung officials donated $5 million to endow a trust fund for use by descendants of America's war-time veterans, and asked the Legion to administer it.

A top Samsung official presented an ovesize check facsimilie in the amount of $5 million to the American Legion Monday during the National Convention.

"Samsung recognizes the sacrifices and commitment of U.S. servicemen and women and we are especially grateful to those of you who helped to maintain the security of the Korean peninsula during the Korean War," said Bo-Soon Song, president and CEO, Samsung North America.

Song said Samsung shares the Legion's commitment to education and the need to produce an educated, highly motivated workforce to face the challenges of today's global economy.

"The greatest contribution a company can make is to support young people in their academic endeavors," Song told Legionnaires attending Monday's opening session.

"We believe the best way to show our appreciation to the United States and to the U.S. war veterans is to offer educational opportunities to the children and grandchildren of American war veterans," he said.

On Sunday, National Executive Committee members gave their formal approval accepting the $5 million for the scholarship program.

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>
> **Bo-Soon Song, CEO**
> **Samsung North America**

The announcement coincided with dedication ceremonies at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington July 27 and the state visit to the nation's capital by South Korean President Kim Young Sam. In announcing the scholarship program, Samsung officials cited the Legion's 75-year tradition in promoting educational opportunities for America's youth.

"Not only is The American Legion the largest veterans organization in the United States, it is deeply involved in educational programs devoted to the young people of America," said Song.

The first Samsung/American Legion scholars will be selected in 1996, once the trust is established. The first applicants will be drawn from 48,000 high school students who take part each year in the Boys State/Boys Nation; and The American Legion Auxiliary's Girls State/Girls Nation programs.

At July's announcement ceremony, National Commander William Detweiler joined with Samsung CEO Ki Suk Park at a Capitol Hill news conference. As the men spoke they were surrounded by enthusiastic American Legion Boys Nation members taking a break from their 1995 session at nearby Marymount University.

Prospective Samsung/American Legion scholars must be the descendants of U.S. wartime veterans who are eligible for membership in The American Legion.

Officials stressed, however, that the veteran does not have to be a member of The American Legion.

Selection of applicants will be based on their academic record, level of involvement in school activities and in their communities; and financial need.

A national selection committee composed of Samsung officials and members of the Legion's National Committee on Education will determine the number of scholarships granted and amounts of each award. ❑

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It's Your Flag.
It's Your Fight.
Protect Your Flag.
Join The Citizens Flag Alliance today

They Brought The Dawn

Gen. Paul Tibbets *(far right)*, pilot of the *Enola Gay* B-29 that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, will accept The American Legion's Distinguished Service Award on behalf of his crew Tuesday during the convention. Crew members join Tibbets here in 1994 in front of the bomber during its restoration at a Smithsonian Institution facility. The *Enola Gay* is now on display at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. The Legion led efforts to persuade the Smithsonian to change its original display plans, which questioned the decision to use the bomb.

Legion journalists feted at banquet

All the chairs in the banquet hall for the National American Legion Press Association were filled – except for one at the head table. That chair was kept open for NALPA President William Becker.

Becker, a New Jersey Legionnaire, died one week before the annual awards dinner, and members of NALPA dedicated the evening in honor of the World War II veteran.

"He looked forward to this event, and while he might not be sitting in this chair, I'm sure he is with us tonight," said NALPA Executive Director George Hooten.

"He would want us to go on with the business at hand."

And the business at hand was presenting awards Sunday night for editorial excellence in the 1995 NALPA "Best Papers" Contest. First-place winners in their respective categories were:

Past President's Plaque: Category 1-A–*The Nebraska Legionnaire*; Category 1-B–*The Lincoln (Neb.) Legionnaire*

Emerson O. Mann Plaque: Category 2-A–*Bugle Call Rag* (Atlanta, Ga.)

Al Weinberg Plaque: Category 3-A–*Havelock Legionnaire* (Neb.); Category 3-B–*Queens of Kings* (N.Y.)

Jack R.C. Cann Plaque: Category 4-A–*Laguna Legion News* (Calif.); Category 4-B–*6th District Monthly Newsletter* (St. Cloud, Minn.)

George W. Hooten Plaque: Category 5-A–*Sea Breeze* (Newport Beach, Calif.); Category 5-B– *Newscaster* (Huntington Beach, Calif.)

William E. Rominger Plaque (editorial writing): Category 6-A–*Shirley Becker* (East Newark, N.J.); Category 6-B–*the Rev. Paul Rowoldt, The Nebraska Legionnaire.*

NALPA members also recognized new officers elected for the 1995-96 year. They are: Parvin Gibbs, Ky, president; area vice presidents, Jim Landers, Texas; R. W. Berridge, Iowa; Betty Beckwith, Fla.; Charles Brynak Jr., Ohio.

Hooten was reappointed as executive director and Dorothy Rowe will continue to serve as administrative assistant.

Press association members also took time out to honor an American Legion National Headquarters staff director for his efforts to promote NALPA and communicate American Legion concerns to the public at-large. Lew Wood, director of the National Public Relations Division in Indianapolis, was presented with the President's Plaque.

"We are all communicators of American Legion concerns and issues," said Wood, a former news correspondent for *CBS* and news anchor for the "Today Show" on NBC.

"What you do for your members and communities makes a difference." ❑

• FLAG

The House of Representatives adopted House Joint Resolution 79 June 28, 312-120.

"It's time to double your efforts to convince the Senate to pass this amendment," said Rep. Jerry Solomon, R-N.Y., in an audio-recorded message to convention delegates. "I predict this will be the fastest constitutional amendment to be ratified in the history of this country if it can clear the Senate."

JERRY SOLOMON

Rep. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, D-Miss., who co-authored **HJR 79** with Solomon, echoed his colleagues sentiments. "The American Legion and CFA led the fight to pass the bill in the House to keep all of these nuts from burning the American flag. If we're unable to move the bill out of the Senate our efforts in the House would have been for nothing."

Detweiler, who testified before congressional panels earlier this year in support of the amendment, took time out to recognize a former television news correspondent for his work in promoting the flag-protection issue.

Ike Papas, a former newsman for *CBS* and *ABC*, was presented with a plaque on behalf of the Legion for his production of two videos for the CFA.

"As a journalist I have always been, and continue to be, a strong supporter of free speech and a free press, but burning the American flag is very, very wrong," Papas said.

"I believe this issue will succeed in the Senate, succeed during the ratification, and will become the law of the land."

American Legion family members to visit a special phone bank to contact their senators' offices and encourage non-cosponsors to support **SJR 31**. The phone bank is located in the East Chamber of the Indiana Convention Center.

"Please don't leave this convention without making the calls," Detweiler said. "Even if your senator is a cosponsor of **SJR 31**, call them and thank them for supporting it." ❑

• DOLE

affirmative action but for renewed vigor in fighting to make English the United States' official language.

He said Americans "know it (affirmative action) has failed," and what was intended as a temporary remedy has ended up dividing Americans by race instead of returning us to the concept of "equal treatment for all."

Requiring all Americans to be fluent in English is a simple case of self-preservation, said Dole, since today's newcomers should learn English like previous immigrants. Also, he said, American history should not be subject to any group's revisionist agenda.

"English must be recognized as America's official language. Western tradition and American greatness must be taught in our schools, and the federal government must end its war on traditional American values."

On defense issues, Dole defends increasing defense spending above that requested by the administration in response to political terrorism and regional threats.

He said despite the West's triumph in the Cold War, the republics of the former Soviet Union are unstable democracies at best, and despite U.S. protests the Russian Federation continues selling nuclear arms to Iran. ❑

Dietz elected as SAL commander

A 24-year member of The Sons of The American Legion has been elected to that organization's top position.

John T. Dietz, 29, Erlanger, Ky., was elected National Commander Sunday during the SAL National Convention.

"I have set the goal to renew the spirit of America in our children and future generations of Americans," said Dietz, following the election.

He served as Kentucky's Detachment commander in 1982-83, and Detachment adjutant from 1989 to 1994. On the National level, he served two terms as a National Executive Committeeman, National sergeant-at-arms, and held memberships on the SAL National Child Welfare Foundation Committee.

The new commander also served as the National Convention Chairman in 1984 and was elected SAL National vice commander-Southern Area for the 1985-86 term.

Dietz, a member of Latonia SAL Squadron 203, was graduated from Northern Kentucky University in 1989 with a bachelor's degree in public administration.

He is the son of Fred and the late Betty Dietz of Kentucky.

Blood donations flowing

There was a steady line of American Legion family members willing to roll up their sleeves and donate blood Monday in Rooms 107 and 108 at the Indiana Convention Center. There were 120 donations collected, officials with the Central Indiana Regional Blood Center reported. That brings the total to186.

The blood draw concludes today. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. ❑