

His extraordinary public service has been marked by his intelligence, firm commitment to principle, and genuine sense of duty to the State of Colorado. He has made a place for himself in this Senate that will far outlast the time spent here.

I wish him and his wife Nan the best of luck in all their future endeavors.

#### A TRIBUTE TO SAM NUNN

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, after 24 years of service we are sad to see Senator SAM NUNN of Georgia go. Like his uncle before him, the Honorable Carl Vinson, chair of the House Armed Services Committee, and that other eminent Georgian, the Venerable Richard Russell, chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee, he has served with distinction, ensuring our Nation's defense in the shifting sands of the post cold war. SAM NUNN can claim credit for overhauling the much maligned procurement system and for streamlining excess base closings. Additionally, he is responsible for engaging the Department of Defense in the war against drugs. With bipartisan support, he sponsored the comprehensive Omnibus Anti-Drug Substance Abuse Act of 1988 that addresses every facet of the issue: law enforcement, interdiction, treatment, education, and increased cooperation with the international community and our own Internal Revenue Service. The latter signals the agency's return to its former G-man days, targeting organized crime and the narcotics industry.

Among our esteemed colleague's forays on crime are his chairmanship and current ranking minority leadership on the Senate's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. In this venue, SAM probed the fraud and abuse of student financial aid. He likened the Nation's PELL Grant Program to "an open bank with no security guards and no tellers". As a result of this and other investigations like it, reform measures were included in reauthorization of the Higher Education Act in 1992.

Other significant achievements belonging to SAM include a 1974 bill which created a mechanism for tracking down runaway parents and holding them financially responsible for their children, definitely a harbinger of family values. He saw the value of providing numerous initiatives for small businesses, including the Small Business Development Center program which provides management and technical assistance to small businesses across the country, and the Preferred Surety Bond Guaranty Program enacted in 1988 and designed to encourage more standard surety companies to participate in the Small Business Administration's Guaranteed BOND Program, strengthening the heart of the American economy, the small businessman. And lest you ever think that SAM forgets the agricultural heritage of Georgia, he cosponsored the Conservation Reserve Program that encourages

farmers to retire highly erodible and environmentally sensitive crop land on a 10-year cycle. Georgia, along with the rest of us, can thank him for the Georgia Wilderness Act of 1984 and the creation of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area.

Yes, he will be remembered as an outstanding Senator and defence expert in the Georgia tradition, but as you can see, he has been much more. Most of all, he has been someone that the people of Georgia and the United States were proud to have serve them as a Senator.

#### SENATOR PRESSLER'S SERVICE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION IN THE 104TH CONGRESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I rise to talk about a friend and long-time colleague, Senator LARRY PRESSLER from South Dakota. Not only does Senator PRESSLER serve South Dakotans' by fighting for the traditional way of life South Dakotans want and deserve, he serves the people of his State and all Americans as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Mr. President, by any measure the Senate Commerce Committee has been one of the most productive in the Senate and, indeed, in either body, during the 104th Congress.

I say this with the greatest sincerity. I know it is true because I have the pleasure of working side-by-side with Senator PRESSLER on the Commerce Committee. As a committee member, I have watched him work tirelessly on behalf of all Americans on some of the most far-reaching and challenging issues this Congress has faced.

Let me say a bit about the vast responsibilities the senior Senator from south Dakota has as chairman of the Commerce Committee. On a daily basis, Chairman PRESSLER labors on matters ranging from promoting the United States as an international tourism destination to shaping the dynamic course of a modernized national communications policy; from intervening on behalf of ranchers into questionable meatpacking concentration practices to working to make the skies as safe as possible for the travelling public.

These are just a few examples of the chairman's vast responsibilities. The list goes on. His job is no small task and in my humble opinion, Senator PRESSLER is a superb chairman.

As I think about significant national events we faced during the 104th Congress, the safety of our Nation's skies comes to mind. Two recent air tragedies, first in the Florida Everglades, and more recently, off the coast of New York, have focused the Nation on aviation safety. Long before he was chairman of the committee with jurisdiction over aviation, Senator PRESSLER worked aggressively to achieve safer skies for the travelling public.

As chairman, Senator PRESSLER made aviation safety one of the main priorities of his committee, holding various aviation safety hearings and leading Congress on working to improve air safety.

Much of his work on aviation safety and security should soon become law as part of compromise legislation he introduced reauthorizing the Federal Aviation Administration. Senator PRESSLER served as chairman of the joint House/Senate Conference Committee that produced the compromise FAA reform and reauthorization bill that will soon be on its way to the White House for the President's signature.

Among its provisions, the bill makes it easier for family members to get accurate information and counseling after a loved one has perished in a plane crash. The bill also calls for the immediate installation of explosive detection technology to beef-up security at our Nation's most vulnerable airports. This is why I chose Senator PRESSLER to represent the Senate on Vice President's GORE's Commission on Air Safety and Security. He has the kind of experience in aviation matters that the Gore Commission needs.

As he does time and time again, Senator PRESSLER also delivered for South Dakota in this legislation. Under his leadership, the bill reauthorizes the Essential Air Service program at a level of \$50 million per year. Mr. President, that doubles the size of this program so vitally important to South Dakota's, and this Nation's, smallest air ports. Senator PRESSLER's hard work ensures people living in our small communities will remain linked to the national air transportation network.

The bill also creates a new funding formula for the Airport Improvement Program. AIP is the program by which airports across the country, from the largest to the smallest, receive assistance in maintaining their core facilities such as runways and terminals. Once again fighting for the people of South Dakota, Chairman PRESSLER saw to it that the new AIP program guarantees that if overall airport funding is significantly reduced, smaller airports will not be disproportionately disadvantaged. Also of importance to smaller airports, the bill directs the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a rural air service study, including an examination of why air fares are so high in small air service markets and provides increased flexibility to small airports working on multi-year airport construction projects.

If we look at aviation in the context of global commerce, Senator PRESSLER has used his chairmanship to pry open air service markets for U.S. carriers worldwide. The German open skies aviation agreement, which PRESSLER helped secure earlier this year, is just one example. These agreements are good for our national economy, good for the airline industry and good for the consumer. Under PRESSLER's stewardship, we are making more progress