

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

than ever before on securing international aviation agreements.

When most people hear the name PRESSLER, they think of telecommunications. He is, after all, credited with achieving the most massive overhaul of our Nation's telecommunications policy since the 1930's. Already, people are using new telecommunications products made possible through the deregulation of the industry. Through Chairman PRESSLER's efforts, we are now ready to take America's telecommunications industry into the 21st century.

PRESSLER's telecommunications law translates into new, more affordable communications options for our homes, hospitals, schools, farms and even highway infrastructure. Under the Pressler Telecommunications Act, phone service providers, cable companies, local television broadcasters, and other companies will compete to bring us entertainment, telephone service, news and information. Once fully implemented, this will mean lower prices for a wide range of communication products.

Mr. President, this new law certainly will benefit all Americans. However, in drafting the law, Senator PRESSLER once again championed the needs of those in rural parts of the country—those who historically have benefited least from advances in communications technologies. Thanks to Senator PRESSLER, South Dakotans will enjoy a wide range of new services.

Take, for example, telemedicine. Telecommunications can connect the world's finest physicians to the most remote areas of the country. It means equality. It means people living in sparsely populated or rural areas will enjoy the latest medical information via computer and satellite.

On the farm, access to information on weather, market conditions, new crops and the latest scientific advances is vital to successful farming operations. The Pressler Telecommunications Act will help bring this information to farmers and ranchers more quickly and efficiently than ever before, and at affordable rates.

Thanks to Senator PRESSLER, students in the classrooms of South Dakota will more rapidly see expanding opportunities in distance learning. These students will be able to receive foreign language, science and advanced mathematics instruction from teachers miles away. Electronic library support will increase, allowing more readers to reserve or renew books by phone or computer. All this will allow schools to better manage scarce resources.

Mr. President, the Pressler Telecommunication Act is one of, if not the most significant legislative accomplishment of this Congress. It is extremely important consumer oriented legislation. It is the most sweeping and revolutionary piece of legislation authored by a South Dakota Senator since the framing of America's Interstate Highway System was initiated by the venerable Senator Karl Mundt.

A second major piece of consumer oriented legislation also came from Senator PRESSLER's Commerce Committee—a product liability reform bill aimed at curtailing frivolous lawsuits. This legislation is good for businesses both small and large. At the same time, Chairman PRESSLER was committed to the proposition that the Commerce Committee write a reform bill that also would benefit consumers.

In 1995, the Commerce Committee reported legislation that would do so in a number of ways. First, it would mean more jobs. Second, it would lower the cost of goods. Third, it would mean a greater selection of goods from which to choose. Fourth, it would encourage testing to make goods safer. Finally, it would help to maintain and, in some cases, improve the quality of products available to consumers.

While the Commerce Committee had held 23 days of hearings on product liability reform and reported seven product liability reform bills since 1981, under Senator PRESSLER's chairmanship, the full Senate passed a bill for the very first time in its history. Chairman PRESSLER then led the Senate delegation into a conference that crafted a compromise bill that ultimately looked very much like the legislation originally reported from PRESSLER's committee.

In another first, both Houses of Congress passed this product liability reform legislation and sent it to the White House for signature. Sadly, in a display of raw, election year political game playing, the President vetoed this important bill. I know Chairman PRESSLER's committee will again produce meaningful product liability reform legislation in the next Congress.

As Chairman of the Commerce Committee, Senator PRESSLER also has been a leader in efforts to reduce the size of government. Late last year, the President signed into law the ICC Termination Act of 1995. Senator PRESSLER introduced the bill in the Senate. As a result of his efforts, an entire Federal agency, the Interstate Commerce Commission, closed its doors forever on December 31, 1995.

The ICC Termination Act also eliminated scores of outdated, unnecessary, and burdensome regulatory requirements and restrictions hampering surface transportation industries. At the same time, Senator PRESSLER ensured the law also was designed to ensure continued protections for shippers against industry abuse—protections vitally important to shippers in places like his home State of South Dakota. A balance between regulatory relief and continued oversight was achieved.

The law also created a Rail-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council. The council is designed to advise the new Board and Congress on issues of importance to small shippers and small railroads, issues such as rail car supply, rates, competition, and procedures for addressing claims.

Mr. President, earlier this year, in response to the disturbing trend under which America slipped out of first place as the world's most visited country, Senator PRESSLER wrote legislation to put the United States back on the map as the world's No. 1 tourism destination. His bill, the Tourism Organization Act of 1996, passed the Senate and he worked tirelessly to craft a compromise bill that later passed in the House.

The Pressler tourism bill is now heading to the White House for the President's signature. Some may overlook the significance of the travel and tourism industry, but it employs more than 6.3 million people and is the second largest employer in America. Senator PRESSLER knows how vital this industry is to all Americans.

I have mentioned just a few of the different hats this chairman has worn during the 104th Congress. There are many, many more. Chairman PRESSLER toiled hard at the helm of a committee that also produced a great deal of vital, although not headline grabbing, legislation. His committee developed legislation needed to allow the Coast Guard to continue its functions vital to the security and safety of this Nation. It crafted what many are calling the most important environmental legislation to come out of the 104th Congress in the form of the Sustainable Fisheries Act. Senator PRESSLER's Commerce Committee furthered its environmental agenda by producing the Antarctic Science, Tourism, and Conservation Act of 1996. Each of these bills is of major consequence. All of these measures are on their way to the President for signature.

Mr. President, I note with a certain amount of personal pride that Congress also acted on a bill I introduced, S. 1505, the Accountable Pipeline Safety and Partnership Act of 1996. This legislation also originated in the Commerce Committee. It reauthorizes appropriations for natural gas and hazardous liquid pipeline safety programs, but it does much more.

S. 1505 is designed to make changes in existing law that reduce the risks and enhance environmental protection associated with pipeline transportation. I introduced this bill last December. Since that time, Chairman PRESSLER and I have worked with a broad constituency interested in the legislation. Together, we worked out a consensus amendment to the bill that was unanimously approved by the Commerce Committee in June.

S. 1505, as passed by the House and Senate, applies a simple, flexible, commonsense risk assessment and cost-benefit analysis to new pipeline safety standards. It moves pipeline safety away from prescriptive, command-and-control approaches and focuses future standards on actions that address assessed safety risks. I am proud of the bill this Congress sent to the President for signature into law. I thank Chairman PRESSLER for all his good efforts in getting this important job done.

Mr. President, under Senator PRESSLER's leadership the Commerce Committee also produced, and the Congress has now passed and sent to the President, reauthorization legislation for the National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Trade Commission. The NTSB is one of our Government's most important agencies. Its mission is to determine the probable cause of transportation accidents and to promote transportation safety. The NTSB is world renown for its timely and expert determinations of accident causation and for issuing realistic and feasible safety recommendations. The FTC is charged with the dual mission of consumer protection and antitrust enforcement. Both agencies are critically important to the safety and well being of American consumers. Both will continue their important work thanks to Chairman PRESSLER's efforts.

Finally, Mr. President, I want to make brief mention of two other bills. Chairman PRESSLER has worked over the last 2 years to achieve a consensus on a National Space Policy Act and authorization legislation for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, both of which were also introduced by Senator PRESSLER. The Space Policy Act embodies authorizations for NASA programs such as Mission to Planet Earth and the space station and enjoys broad bipartisan support in both Houses of Congress. The NOAA authorization legislation is another bill vital to the public safety. Among other things, NOAA is charged with forecasting and warning against impending destructive natural events such as hurricanes, thunderstorms, and tornados.

Mr. President, I commend Commerce Committee chairman, Senator LARRY PRESSLER. He is a shining example of how to get things done in the Senate. Just look at the record. Chairman PRESSLER has left his distinguished mark on some of the most important pieces of legislation this Congress produced.

I conclude by also congratulating the members, members on both sides of the aisle, of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation for an exceptional legislative record in this Congress. Without a doubt this was one of the most active and productive of all Senate committees.

TIRBUTE TO SENATOR MARK O. HATFIELD

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, when the full Appropriations Committee marked up H.R. 3755, the fiscal year 1997 Labor/HHS appropriations bill, I was pleased that the committee accepted an amendment to name the new NIH clinical research center, the Mark O. Hatfield Clinical Research Center. This center will be of major importance to our Nation's health and will be named for a man who has dedicated his entire public life to enhancing the

quality of all human life. There is no greater tribute to his innumerable contributions in this area than to designate, in his name, a living legacy within whose walls will be state-of-the-art facilities for a combined effort of basic and clinical research—laboratories and clinics side-by-side—to discover interventions and deliver the most effective health care our Nation or any nation has ever known.

In his 30 years of Senate service, Senator HATFIELD brought to this institution, his great intellect, a quiet decency, and a tenacious advocacy for those who have little voice. He is a true and eloquent spokesman for the protection of our people from the forces of ignorance and illiteracy, social injustice, weapons of mass destruction, and diseases that ravage the mind and body. Throughout his career, he consistently fought to direct our Nation's precious fiscal resources to programs that held promise in eradicating society's ills and improving the human condition. At times, he was a lone voice facing a hostile reception by administrations with different priorities but his dedication did not waiver.

Our chairman adheres to no political or ideological boundary but the voice of his own conscience, often placing himself in direct opposition the prevailing winds of the day. Whether fighting major rescissions in social discretionary programs in the early 1980's or in protecting biomedical research funding as recently as in last year's budget resolution, he never lost sight of the importance of maintaining strong national programs for both basic and clinical health research as well as the training of tomorrow's scientists.

Our colleague always believed that we would be acting irresponsibly by shortchanging these and other life sustaining efforts, therefore, any immediate savings achieved would be offset by a weakened human condition for decades to come. "If we fail to provide adequately for the training of future generations of research scientists", I have often heard him say, "then we are effectively eating our seed corn." In failing to provide necessary annual increases in funds for research grants, he insists, we will "lose the momentum" in our capacity to eradicate human suffering at home and world-wide.

When it is completed, the Mark O. Hatfield Clinical Research Center will be a magnificent structure and a world model. With this amendment, we honor a man who, in his retirement from the Senate, should leave secure in the knowledge that his life's work has made a difference. By creating the opportunity for new discoveries in disease prevention and treatment a more healthy future has been insured for all Americans today and for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR COHEN

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the contributions of retiring Senator WILLIAM

COHEN of Maine, as he prepares to take leave of the U.S. Senate.

Mr. President, the Christian Science Monitor once referred to Senator COHEN as a "true Renaissance man." That is an apt compliment, because it describes a person of broad interests who applies his intellect and energy with distinction in many theaters of human activity.

Senator COHEN certainly embodies that description.

In my 3 years here, I have come to appreciate Senator COHEN's intelligence, independence of thought and action, his integrity, his capacity for hard work and his respect for the Senate and for the process of making public policy.

He has also found time to write a pretty good book or two.

Senator COHEN and I have both served on the Senate Special Committee on Aging, and there I have been able to watch, first-hand, his skill and dedication in dealing with issues of particular importance to senior citizens and of relevance to us all. He has, in particular, been a leader in the battle against waste, fraud and abuse in our Medicaid system.

He has also, upon assuming the chair, continued the tradition of bipartisan cooperation on that committee.

I have also appreciated Senator COHEN's insistence on the highest ethical standards for lawmakers. He wrote the law that renewed the Office of Government Ethics and, in fact, made it stronger. He has been a reliable ally in the fight for congressional reform. He played an important role in lobbying reform and was an important supporter of the efforts to restrict gift giving.

Mr. President, several months ago, Senator COHEN delivered a moving tribute to another Maine lawmaker, Senator Edmund Muskie, after Senator Muskie's passing.

Senator COHEN quoted John Kennedy on how to take the measure of people: "First, were we truly people of courage? Second, were we truly people of judgment? Third, were we truly people of integrity? Fourth, were we truly people of dedication?"

Senator COHEN said at the time that the answer to each of those questions in Ed Muskie's case was "yes." The same can be said for Senator COHEN.

Mr. President, the residents of Maine know, I am sure, they have been well-served by Senator COHEN. Let me say, for the record, so have the American people.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION REFORM LEGISLATION IN THE 104TH CONGRESS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, as the 104th Congress winds to a close, I wanted take this opportunity to comment on the demise of the Food and Drug Administration Reform legislation.

It has been extremely disappointing to me that efforts to prod the FDA into meaningful reform have not been fruitful. It is doubly disappointing because,