

helped ready our country to meet nearly any military challenge.

Mr. President, as I look across the room, I am reminded that another Georgian soon will be assigned the desk that Senator NUNN has occupied for nearly one-quarter of a century. Without a doubt, his desk will be difficult to fill, but I am sure Senator NUNN, in his wisdom and knowledge of this body, will do everything possible to guide Georgia's new Senator. As we prepare to leave our Nation's Capital and return to our respective districts, my wife Harriet and I wish SAM NUNN and his lovely wife Colleen, the very best for the future. Something tells me that the Senator from Georgia will continue to be a central figure in formulating our national security and foreign policies. It would be a mistake not to tap into SAM NUNN's knowledge, experience and leadership. God bless SAM NUNN as he embarks on interesting new challenges.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR PAUL SIMON

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to my good friend from Illinois, PAUL SIMON. Senator SIMON will leave the Senate very soon, and I must confess that I will miss him. He is an outstanding legislator, and skillful writer, and most important, a kind friend to me and my wife Harriet.

Throughout his life, Senator SIMON has found success as a writer and editor. He is a prolific writer, and the author of many books, including perhaps the most comprehensive biography of Abraham Lincoln as a young legislator. The connection between these two Illinois favorite sons past and present doesn't end there. Both Abraham Lincoln and PAUL SIMON began their political careers in the Illinois legislature, and both at about the same time in their lives. Both built a reputation of honesty and forthrightness. Both sported bow ties. Where the careers diverged is somewhat ironic. Senator SIMON holds the very Senate seat unsuccessfully sought by Abraham Lincoln in his famous battle with Stephen Douglas in 1858. Yet, Abraham Lincoln of course won the presidency in 1860, an office Senator SIMON unsuccessfully sought in 1988.

Certainly, there's much more to Senator SIMON's career than his similarities with our Nation's greatest President. Much more. Senator SIMON has been his party's most outspoken crusader for a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. I am proud to have been an original cosponsor of his balanced budget amendment. He worked very, very hard to get his amendment passed. We came so close last year—just one vote short. He can be very certain that we will work hard to resume the fight next year. I am confident that we will pass a balanced budget amendment. And when we do, and when the required number of

States ratify the amendment, this Nation will owe a big thank you to our friend from Illinois.

The fight for a balanced budget amendment symbolizes the kind of commitment and determination Senator SIMON possesses as a legislator. I always enjoyed being on the same side of an issue with my friend from Illinois. I knew my chances of success were much improved if he was involved in any legislative effort I participated in. Conversely, I knew I had my work cut out for me when we were on opposite sides of an issue.

Senator SIMON was a champion of many causes—literacy, college student loans, limitations on television violence, just to name a few. We both served together as members of the Foreign Relations and Judiciary Committees. On Foreign Relations, he took a strong interest in the African continent. Indeed, in 1993, I sought his advice and perspectives before I made my trip to Africa to promote South Dakota agriculture.

There are so many things that can be said about Senator PAUL SIMON. He is an extraordinary man who has led an extraordinary life. What I will miss most however is his warmth and his kindness. If the Senate had an unofficial ambassador of goodwill, it was the senior Senator from Illinois. Senator SIMON regularly held open meetings in his office and had time for everyone who came to visit. That's the kind of Senator, the kind of man PAUL SIMON is. Senator SIMON is an extraordinary individual, and a good friend. Harriet and I wish he and his lovely wife Jeanne nothing but the best.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR HANK BROWN

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to my friend from Colorado, Senator HANK BROWN. He and his lovely wife Nan have been good friends to me and Harriet. HANK BROWN is both worthy ally and worthy adversary. Over the years, I have worked with my friend from Colorado on several issues of mutual interest. I remember well the battles we have fought together and the times when we honorably have disagreed.

I remember one disagreement in particular. During my efforts in support of our South Dakota honey program, Senator BROWN was relentless to end Federal funding for the program. Yet, in his effort to end honey price supports, he still was willing to listen to my side. He even took the time to sit down to visit with honey producers from South Dakota. He listened to their concerns. I always will be grateful for that.

That is not the only time Senator BROWN and I have agreed to disagree. More than once, we have sparred over nuclear nonproliferation issues in South Asia. Senator BROWN and I travelled to South Asia together and de-

bated this topic quite extensively. While he and I disagree on the best course of action our Nation should take to slow weapons-building programs in South Asia, I do not question for a second his efforts to promote peace in this unstable region of the world.

As fellow Vietnam veteran, Senator BROWN and I have shared a special personal involvement in preserving and protecting the interests of our veterans. He has done an outstanding job as a member of the Veterans Affairs Committee. He has dedicated hours of service to making certain that veterans programs meet each and every need of those who served bravely in our Armed Forces.

Finally, Senator BROWN has been a tenacious advocate in congressional efforts to balance the bloated Federal budget. He has been a prominent member of the Senate Budget Committee, and knows the vital importance of ending years of wasteful Government spending. He understands how necessary it is for us to put the Government's fiscal house in order. HANK BROWN has risen to the fiscal challenges placed before him on the Budget Committee and has fought hard to protect Americans' hard-earned incomes.

I will miss my friend and colleague from Colorado—his hard work, his good humor, and his friendship. During his term in office, HANK BROWN has demonstrated a sincere devotion to the people of his home State of Colorado. He is a hard-working, commonsense public servant, dedicated to the people he represents. We in the Senate will miss his willingness to listen to differing views and to work together to cut through Government gridlock. I wish my friend HANK and his wife Nan all the best.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR NANCY KASSEBAUM

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to my friend and colleague, Senator NANCY KASSEBAUM, on her retirement from the U.S. Senate. It is not easy for me to bid her farewell. I sincerely will miss her presence in this body. Nancy and I have served together since 1979, when we both came to this body. Since then, we have shared and fought for the same traditional midwestern ideals and values. Working together, we have succeeded in ensuring that our States get their fair share of Federal funding. She understands the unique needs of rural America. Few have shown her deep commitment to the interests of Kansas and the midwest.

It has been a great privilege for me to work with Senator KASSEBAUM. She has been an inspiration to me and countless others. Her hard work and dedication to this body and to the people she represents in Kansas are unprecedented.

During our years together on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I

developed a deep respect for NANCY'S convictions and her commitment to aiding people in lesser-developed areas of the world. As both Chair and ranking member of the Subcommittee on African Affairs, Senator KASSEBAUM has shown compassion, tempered with pragmatism, in dealing with the unique issues of war-torn, famine-ravaged sub-Saharan Africa. Her expertise on issues affecting this area of the globe is unequalled in the Senate.

Senator KASSEBAUM's expertise does not end there. She also knows the United Nations inside and out. She has dedicated much of her time to reforming the waste, fraud, and abuse that is rampant within the UN. Frankly, she spearheaded increased congressional oversight of the UN. The Kassebaum Amendment withheld 20 percent of regular budget assessments beginning in fiscal year 1987, in an effort to make UN budget voting proportional to country assessments. A host of UN accounting and budgetary assessment reforms have followed in the wake of this amendment.

Senator KASSEBAUM also is a champion of education. She has worked tirelessly to secure increased funding for student financial aid and to reorganize the Jobs Corps program. As Chair of the Labor and Human Resources Committee, Senator KASSEBAUM also must be given credit for shepherding the Republican workfare plan through Congress. Because of her steadfast determination, we finally passed real welfare reform—reform that will end the failed "free lunch" approach to welfare and will bring aid to those who need it most. She is a tough, commonsense reformer, whose tenacity and calm resolve will never be forgotten nor easily replaced.

Finally, perhaps her crowning achievement of this Congress was passage this year of commonsense health care reform. Thanks to the Senator from Kansas, working Americans need not fear the loss of their health insurance policies when they change jobs or because of a pre-existing condition. Thanks to the Senator from Kansas, the self-employed will be able to deduct a greater portion of their health insurance costs from their Federal tax liability. These represent real and positive health care reforms.

As the 104th Congress draws to a close, I wish my friend, Nancy KASSEBAUM, the very best as she embarks on new interests in her home state of Kansas and elsewhere. Her career in Washington has been distinguished. Her public service to her State and Nation are unrivaled in terms of results. Senator NANCY KASSEBAUM will be remembered as a first-class public official. I wish her all the best now and in the many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO SHEILA FRAHM, U.S. SENATOR FROM KANSAS

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute to my friend

and colleague, Senator SHEILA FRAHM, for her outstanding service to the people of Kansas. As a former Kansas State Senator and Lieutenant Governor, SHEILA FRAHM has served her country and State with pride.

Senator FRAHM has a long and distinguished record of public service. She served as a member of the Kansas Board of Education, a Kansas State Senator, and was Kansas' first woman Senate Majority Leader. She also was the first woman in Kansas history to be elected Lieutenant Governor. As Lieutenant Governor, SHEILA FRAHM served as a member of the Governor's Cabinet and as Secretary of Administration, running the day-to-day operations of the Kansas State government.

Mr. President, in a matter of weeks, SHEILA FRAHM's life changed drastically. She gracefully moved into the Senate seat of one of the living legends of American political history, Bob Dole. Senator FRAHM has demonstrated time and time again that she can rise to any occasion. She did so yet again here in the Senate.

As a member of the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, Senator FRAHM played a vital role in moving legislation during the final months of the 104th Congress. Senator FRAHM also came to the Senate at a time to help pass historic legislation, including workfare, health care and illegal immigration reform. In a few short months she has voted to pass the kind of legislation many of her colleagues have waited years to address. SHEILA FRAHM has earned the respect and admiration of her colleagues, her staff, and her constituents.

We will soon bid farewell to our colleague from Kansas—Senator FRAHM. My wife Harriet and I wish Senator FRAHM, her husband Kenneth, and their three daughters, the very best. I am proud to have served in the 104th Congress with Senator FRAHM. Her valuable contributions to the Senate will not be forgotten.

SALUTE TO GUST LARSON

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment today to pay tribute to a great South Dakotan—Gust Larson of Midland. Gust is a "salt of the Earth" individual whose feet are planted firmly in the real world. Gust is truly one of South Dakota's unsung heroes. He deserves to be recognized for his leadership in helping to preserve rail service across South Dakota. I was privileged to work with Gust Larson several years ago on this issue. My association with Gust consists of some of the most productive and enjoyable work I have done as a United States Senator for South Dakota.

I first met Gust in the early 1980's when the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad [C&NW] filed for abandonment of the only east-west rail line across South Dakota. Gust owned the local grain elevator in Midland, a small

town in the middle of western South Dakota with less than 300 residents. When the C&NW announced its abandonment plans, Midland and other communities along the rail line were devastated, as were all the farmers and ranchers who depended on the railroad to ship their grain to market.

The prospects for blocking the abandonment looked bleak at the time. Back then, rail consolidation was the norm throughout the Nation. All across the country, one rail line after another was being abandoned. Thus, given the climate of the times, few people held out much hope when the C&NW announced its intent to abandon the 164-mile line from Rapid City to Fort Pierre. Some people even said there was no point in fighting the abandonment because the railroads always got their way with the Interstate Commerce Commission [ICC].

Gust Larson was not one of those people. Gust is a fighter, and he was not about to give up his and his fellow South Dakotans only rail link to the outside world without a fight. Gust knew the rail line would certainly be abandoned if nothing was done. He could not stand by and lose the only rail link to the grain market terminals to the east and down south to the Gulf of Mexico. Loss of this line would result in higher costs for western South Dakota grain producers in shipping their grain to market.

I shared Gust's concerns. The so-called political experts at the time advised me to keep a low profile. They urged me not to get involved. Fighting the abandonment was seen as a lost cause. Well, I grew up believing that lost causes sometimes were the ones worth fighting for. And, like Gust, I would not stand idly by and let the C&NW abandon this important line. So, ignoring the advice of the naysayers, I joined Gust Larson's lost cause to save the rail line.

A shippers group called the Western South Dakota Railway Users Association was formed, and Gust agreed to serve as chairman. Some scoffed and said we were tilting at windmills in challenging a huge corporation like C&NW with all its financial resources and attorneys. Skeptics pointed out that the C&NW had filed several other abandonment petitions across the country, and all of them had been approved by the ICC. Why would our line be any different?

Despite these tremendous odds, we decided to take on the railroad. Gust and his fellow rail users held countless telephone conversations and meetings with my office to formulate strategy and develop a plan of action.

Frankly, I suspect that C&NW corporate officials who handled abandonment petitions on a regular basis didn't take Gust Larson and his small band of rail users very seriously. After all, the C&NW was successful in other abandonment requests, and all certainly involved the usual protests from people like Gust Larson. Well, the C&NW attorneys and executives were in for a