

and the State Department for the excellent work they are doing in pursuing this opportunity. Also, I would be remiss if I failed to recognize the outstanding leadership German Transport Minister Matthias Wissmann has provided. I appreciate fully that Germany's membership in the European Union creates an added challenge in accomplishing our shared goal of securing an open skies agreement. For that reason, I commend Minister Wissmann for the great political courage he and the German Government have shown in pursuing this initiative.

An open skies agreement with Germany is tremendously significant since it would benefit the U.S. economy, our airline industry and consumers. Let me briefly expand on each point.

First, both immediately and from a long-term perspective, a United States-Germany open skies agreement would produce significant economic benefits for the United States. Due to the competitiveness of U.S. passenger and cargo carriers, they consistently generate for the United States significant net trade surpluses. I fully expect the same will continue to be true under a fully liberalized aviation regime with Germany. In fact, the performance of our cargo carriers under the liberalized air cargo agreement we signed with Germany in 1993 has been very impressive.

Germany also would benefit greatly from such an agreement. To confirm this point, one need only look to the Netherlands which continues to reap enormous economic benefits from the open skies agreement we signed with the Dutch several years ago. Unquestionably, the economic benefits of open skies agreements are a two-way street. I believe a United States-Germany open skies agreement is an excellent long-term economic investment for both countries.

Second, an open skies agreement with Germany would create tremendous new international air service opportunities for the U.S. airline industry. As I have previously explained to this body, such an agreement would generate both direct and indirect benefits for all U.S. passenger carriers.

In terms of direct benefits, an open skies agreement with Germany would immediately produce new air service opportunities between the United States and Germany. Is there pent-up demand among U.S. passenger carriers to serve Germany? Absolutely. Recently, eight U.S. passenger carriers sought to offer 316 roundtrip flights between the United States and Germany each week during the 1996 summer season. Under the current bilateral aviation agreement, however, U.S. passenger carriers can only offer 276 weekly roundtrip flights to Germany. Under an open skies agreement, there would be no such limit and the number of roundtrip frequencies would be set by market demand, not governments.

Equally important, German airports would provide well-situated gateway

opportunities for our carriers to serve points throughout Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the booming Asia-Pacific market. Is it realistic to think that German airports will provide key gateways to the rapidly expanding Asia-Pacific market? Absolutely. In fact, Japan Airlines recently announced it intends to initiate new service between Osaka and Frankfurt. Non-stop service is presently available from Frankfurt-Main Airport to cities throughout the Asia-Pacific market including Hong Kong, Seoul, Bangkok and Singapore. Moreover, non-stop service to the Asia-Pacific market also is currently available from Munich Airport. These examples illustrate my point well.

With respect to indirect benefits, an open skies agreement with Germany would be an important catalyst for further liberalization of air service opportunities throughout Europe. Since it is such a critical fact, let me reiterate a point I have made in this body before. An open skies agreement with Germany—in combination with liberalized air service agreements we already secured with the Netherlands in 1992 and with nine other European countries last year—would mean nearly half of all passengers traveling between the United States and Europe would be flying to or from European countries with open skies regimes. Under such a scenario, competition would be our best ally in opening the remaining restrictive air service markets in Europe.

Will an open skies agreement with Germany, or any other country for that matter, benefit all U.S. passenger carriers equally? Of course not. A market-oriented framework only guarantees carriers the opportunity to compete. As should be the case, the market will determine which carriers will benefit most under an open skies agreement with Germany. Overall, however, I do predict with confidence that the U.S. aviation industry as a whole will benefit immensely from unrestricted opportunities to serve Germany.

Third, undoubtedly consumers in the United States and Germany would be the biggest winners. Due to enhanced service options as well as the assurance of competitive air fares, consumers always benefit most under open skies agreements.

In conclusion, I am very pleased that we are well on our way to an open skies agreement with Germany. Such an agreement would be in the best economic interest of the United States and it would create considerable new international air service opportunities for all U.S. passenger carriers. Of great importance to me, consumers would reap significant benefits as well. I hope an open skies agreement with Germany will soon be in hand.

Let me add that I know some of my colleagues are frustrated that we have not made more progress liberalizing air service opportunities with several other major trading partners. I share this frustration but do not believe it

results from a lack of effort on the part of our negotiators. In fact, our successful talks with the Germans illustrate a critical element which has been lacking in those other negotiations. I refer to the keen vision the Germans have shown in recognizing that the economic benefits of an open skies agreement with the United States are a two-way street.

In this regard, I believe my colleagues who are frustrated about the continued reluctance of the British to permit U.S. carriers greater access to London Heathrow Airport should be very pleased by this development with Germany. As I said earlier, competition will be our best ally in expanding air service opportunities with European countries such as the United Kingdom that continue to restrict the access of U.S. carriers. An open skies agreement with Germany will add great force to this market dynamic.

TRIBUTE TO LOWELL KRASSNER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of the late Lowell Krassner of Burlington, VT, who passed away unexpectedly on January 15, 1996. As a longtime activist with the Vermont chapter of the Sierra Club, Lowell dedicated much of his life and energy to the conservation and stewardship of our natural resources—both in Vermont and nationally.

Lowell, together with his wife and partner Diane Geerken, worked tirelessly to protect the Vermont they loved, making major contributions to the eventual passage of the Vermont Wilderness Act of 1983 and the Green Mountain National Forest Management Plan of 1986.

Lowell and Diane functioned as a two-person citizen oversight committee, making sure that the actions of State and Federal public lands and natural resource managers were carefully reviewed. Indeed, friends and colleagues have often remarked how their South Burlington home served as both a hub of environmental activism and a Vermont conservation archive for so many years.

Lowell stood as a staunch defender of the Long/Appalachian Trail. He could also be both a strong supporter and sharp critic of the U.S. Forest Service, depending on the issue at hand.

In his commitment to the environment, Lowell Krassner also looked well beyond the Green Mountains, Lake Champlain, and the Connecticut River. He was well read on the various national environmental debates of the day—clean water, clean air, endangered species, wetlands, ANWR, Forest Service timber policy—and readily shared his views with his congressional representatives.

Lowell was particularly concerned with the recent attacks on our Nation's environmental laws represented by such actions as the timber salvage rider on the fiscal 1995 rescission legislation.

Over the last few years, Lowell immersed himself in the work of the Northern Forest Lands Council and strongly supported legislation to implement the council's recommendations.

Lowell Krassner will be truly missed, not only by his family and the Vermont chapter of the Sierra Club, but also by those many of us who counted on his unswerving commitment and honesty in furthering the cause we share—the wise stewardship of our public lands and natural resources.

JOYCE ROUILLE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to let the entire Senate know how proud I am of Joyce Rouille, a wonderful person and someone who I am fortunate enough to call my friend. Joyce was recently named the Volunteer of the Week by the Burlington Free Press for her work at the Community Health Center in Burlington, VT. While Joyce may technically be retired, anyone who knows her will attest to her constant devotion to her family, church, and community. The time and love she spends each day on other people would exhaust any normal person. Joyce and Jack have shown all of us how to be good parents and good citizens.

I ask unanimous consent that the article appearing in the Burlington Free Press be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Burlington Free Press, Jan. 22, 1996]

VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK (By Beth Gillespie)

Joyce Rouille is enhancing her retirement by helping parents at the Community Health Center of Burlington.

As coordinator of the CHC library, Rouille helps ensure that patients have easy access to the hundreds of parenting books and other materials.

She keeps track of the books patients take out, sends notices for overdue items and generally keeps library materials organized. She also helps with filing, billing, mailing and other clerical work in the center's main office.

"Joyce does anything we ask her to," says CHC director Alison Calderara. "She's totally committed and always here when we need her. It's been really nice to have her around."

Rouille lives in Burlington with her husband, John. She enjoys sewing, seasonal crafts, gardening and quilting.

"After you stop working, you don't want to just sit in a chair and do nothing. I really do enjoy working at the center—the staff are very outgoing and friendly," Rouille says.

NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, each year we celebrate in the Nation's Capitol a National Prayer Breakfast. It was my privilege to attend today, the 44th consecutive gathering. The President of the United States and the First

Lady, together with the Vice President and his wife are, as they were today, regular attendees. Leaders from many countries, leaders from every State join with members of the judiciary, executive, and legislative branches of our government. It is invariably an inspirational, memorable event.

As is customary, Members of Congress preside and today Senator ROBERT BENNETT, Utah, whose father likewise was a distinguished U.S. Senator, contributed masterfully as a master of ceremonies. Senators and House Members share in the program.

Strong messages were given by all, especially President Clinton and Vice President GORE. The Senate participants were Senator CAROL MOSELEY-BRAUN, Illinois, who read beautifully from the scriptures and Senator ALAN SIMPSON who spoke with deep sincerity and humility.

But the most memorable contribution of all was from the principal speaker, Senator SAM NUNN, Georgia. The audience, at the breakfast and watching television, all across America, were given a stirring, uplifting message. Remarks that are deserving to be recorded for present and future generations the world over.

It is with pride and humility that I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the remarks of my two valued friends, Senator SIMPSON and Senator NUNN.

There being no objection, the remarks were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REMARKS BY SENATOR SIMPSON, NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST, FEBRUARY 1, 1996

Mr. President, First Lady Hillary, Mr. Vice President and President of our Senate and Tipper Gore, Distinguished guests. Greetings, my fellow seekers, discoverers, and wanderers (not necessarily in that order!) always a grand morning.

One of the great honors of my life was to give the principle address at this national prayer breakfast in 1989. I was filled with trepidation that a seeker like me would be asked.

The night before, the Reverend Billy Graham, one of the most loving, inspirational, caring men in this world, called and said, "Alan, we are praying for you." I said, "You're praying for me! I'm doing plenty of that for myself!" So typical of Billy Graham.

Long ago in public life I learned where to turn when I didn't know where to turn. One source.

The Senate prayer breakfast group gathers every Wednesday morning for a convivial half hour between 8 and 9:00. Our leaders are Bob Bennett, the Republican from Utah and Dan Akaka a Democrat from Hawaii. Rare gentlemen both.

The presenter of the day—after an opening prayer—shares much of himself or herself with us for fifteen or twenty minutes and then a time of discussion and fellowship. Promptly at the hour of nine we close with a prayer as we stand with hands joined around the tables. Sometimes the theme is the Bible. Sometimes it's public life. Sometimes it's about family and our jobs but always it's about ourselves and the impact of that greater force in our lives—a higher being. All faiths. All philosophies. All believers.

These are always very moving times. We share much with each other and we gain much from each other.

It helps us endure in the partisan and political world in which we have chosen to labor. Kindness, civility, tolerance and forgiveness all are part of the essence of our gatherings. We try to put aside harsh judgment and criticism.

I remember the words of a wonderful couplet my mother used to share.

There is so much good in the worst of us.
And so much bad in the best of us.

That it ill behooves any of us

To find fault with the rest of us.

I like that one. I knew you would!

We also talk about our human frailties. We talk about how easy it is to fall for the blandishments of flattery and be overcome by ego.

I have often said that those who travel the high road of humility in Washington DC are not really troubled by heavy traffic!

It is always a very uplifting time. Yes, actually too a time of sharing of our own vulnerabilities. It was Will Rogers, our great American humorist, who said, "It's great to be great but it is greater to be human."

We are very privileged to be able to serve in the United States Senate. A special obligation. People do observe us. We are scrutinized. (Indeed we are!) We hope to do more than just talk a good game. We need to live the things we learn and share.

Let me close with a poem that is something we try to take from the weekly Senate prayer breakfast group and something we might hope to remember from this marvelous convocation today. That little poem.

We'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day,

We'd rather you would walk with us than merely show the way.

The eye is a better pupil and more willing than the ear.

Fine counsel is confusing, but example's always clear.

We can soon learn how to do it if you'll let us see it done,

We can watch you well in action, but your tongue too fast may run

And the lecture you deliver may be very wise and true,

But we'd rather get our lessons by observing what you do.

Now there's "the word" for the day!

God bless you all.

REMARKS OF SENATOR NUNN

Thank you Bob Bennett, President and Mrs. Clinton, Vice President and Mrs. Gore, fellow sinners. Have I left anyone out? I say to my good friend, Alan Simpson, Billy Graham called me also, Alan. He said, as he did in his message, that he was praying for us all. But, he felt particularly compelled to pray for Alan Simpson and for me. Alan, I don't know what he meant by that, but you and I appreciate it.

A few years ago during the Bresznev era, Dr. Billy Graham returned from a highly publicized trip to Moscow and was confronted when he returned by one of his critics with these words, "Dr. Graham, you have set the church back 50 years." Billy Graham lowered his head and replied, "I am deeply ashamed. I have been trying very hard to set the church back 2,000 years."

Today we represent different political parties, different religions and different nations, but as your invitation states, we gather as brothers and sisters in the spirit of Jesus who lived 2,000 years ago, and who lives in our hearts and minds today.

The first prayer breakfast was held in 1953 in a world of great danger. President Eisenhower was newly inaugurated and had just returned from Korea where our young soldiers were fighting desperately. World Communism was on the move. Eastern Europe