



MILITARY COMPENSATION AND RETIREMENT MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

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Hon. Larry L. Pressler



Larry L. Pressler served as a United States Senator from South Dakota from 1979 through 1997 and a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1975 through 1979. Senator Pressler, a Rhodes Scholar, was the first Vietnam Veteran elected to the U.S. Senate. He served as chairman of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. During his 18 years in the U.S. Senate, he also served on the Finance, Foreign Relations, Small Business, Environment and Public Works, Banking, Judiciary, and Budget committees.

While in Congress, Senator Pressler authored and passed several pieces of major legislation, including the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act of 1996, the Interstate Commerce Commission Termination Act of 1995, significant nuclear non-proliferation legislation (Pressler Amendment), legislation creating an independent U.N. Inspector General office, numerous pieces of legislation regarding international trade, and the Pressler Amendment requiring sanctions on Pakistan for using U.S. in terrorist and nuclear activities. He also served as Congressional Delegate to the United Nations on two occasions and on the Boards of Visitors of the U.S. Military Academy and the Air Force Academy.

President Obama appointed Senator Pressler as a member of the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad. He was a member of the Congressional Fiscal Leadership Council for the Campaign to Fix the Debt (Simpson-Bowles Group). He also served as a Foreign Service Officer in the Legal Advisor's Office in Washington, D.C. and Geneva, Switzerland (1971-74).

During 1966 through 1968, Senator Pressler served two tours of combat duty in Vietnam as a U.S. Army Lieutenant. In recognition of his meritorious service, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Meritorious Unit Commendation with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with 4 Bronze Service Stars, the Vietnam Campaign Ribbon with Device, two Overseas Service Bars, and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation Badge.

Senator Pressler is a member of the Jericho Homeless Veterans Project's Advisory Council, which is helping establish homeless facilities for veterans in the Bronx and Harlem. He has also served as a Distinguished Guest Lecturer at Georgetown University Law School and Catholic University and a Distinguished Visiting Faculty at Sciences Po University in Paris, France. He has also taught at Harvard, UCLA, and several universities in China and India.

Senator Pressler holds a Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School, a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard University Kennedy School of Government, an Oxford Diploma in Public and Social Administration from Oxford University, and a B.A. in Government from the University of South Dakota. He has authored two books: *U.S. Senators from the Prairie* and *Star Wars: The Strategic Defense Initiative Debates in Congress*. Senator Pressler is a member of the District of Columbia and New York Bar.