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### HONORING THE ANGEL FLIGHT ORGANIZATION

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the great work that is done by the Angel Flight organization and, in particular, one of its Georgia members, Mack Secord. In the world of nonprofits, Angel Flight stands out for its determination to bring those in need lifesaving medical care. In a world of dedicated volunteers, Mack Secord stands out for coupling his passion for flying with his passion to help his fellow man.

Angel Flight's creed is that the cost of travel should never stand in the way of patients receiving necessary medical care. Through a network of volunteer pilots, Angel Flight specializes in flying those in need to medical facilities at distant locations.

In Georgia, we are proud that the DeKalb Peachtree Airport in metro Atlanta is home to Angel Flight, the original volunteer pilot organization serving those who live in or are traveling to or through Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, and the Carolinas.

Since the year 2000, Angel Flight's missions of hope have increased more than 760 percent. Last year, these generous volunteer pilots flew 2,266 missions, serving patients with 167 different medical conditions who ranged in age from newly born to 100 years old.

In some of our nation's most trying hours, the pilots and coordinators of Angel Flight were there. In the aftermath of 9/11, they transported relief workers, firefighters, Red Cross personnel, and FBI agents to New York and Washington when commercial air traffic was grounded. They served as first responders during hurricanes Katrina and Rita, flying 450 relief missions that carried supplies, medical equipment, and volunteers into disaster areas, and reunited families separated by the storms.

In recognition of the service of its volunteers, Angel Flight received awards from the Red Cross and the National Aeronautic Association.

One of Angel Flight's dedicated volunteers is Mack Secord of Atlanta. Simply put, Mack's life has always been about service. He is one of the original 15 pilots of Angel Flight of Georgia. But before he found his calling transporting adults and children to hospitals, burn centers, and cancer treatment facilities, Mack had another calling: his country. Mack spent 42 years as a pilot in the U.S. Air

Force. For five of those years, he served as the Air Force's senior spokesman at the Pentagon.

Flying and helping others have always been Mack's twin passions. In 1964, while in the Air Force, he participated in a daring humanitarian airlift in the Congo that saved more than 2,000 people who had been taken hostage. For his efforts, Mack and his colleagues received the prestigious Mackay Trophy awarded by the Air Force for the most meritorious flight of the year.

Since 1985, Mack has donated his time, his Cessna 180, and the cost of his fuel to Angel Flight. On his first mission, he picked up a little boy in Columbus, Ga., who had terrible burns on his face and body from pulling a frying pan off a stove. Mack says he didn't know burn patients require continuing treatment. He said:

"I realized during the first flight that this was an important service and that I could make a difference."

Mack is a one-man cheering section for Angel Flight. He spreads the word to the Lions Clubs, Kiwanis Clubs, Rotary Clubs, pilots associations, schools, churches, and anyone who will listen. He jokes that he will give his 20-minute PowerPoint presentation to any group of people who will sit still. This remarkable man also volunteers at the Hartsfield-Jackson Airport USO, works at the Atlanta Community Food Bank, and participates in a program to read to the blind. But his first love is flying.

Last August, Mack received the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award from the FAA to commemorate 50 years of flying without accidents, incidents, or violations. In October, Mack was given the first-ever Lifetime Achievement Award from Angel Flight, marking his 23 years of service. Fittingly, it will be renamed the "Mack Secord Award." Just this month, Mack was honored with the National Aeronautical Association's Public Benefit Flying Award for decades of going above and beyond as a volunteer pilot, bringing lifesaving medical care to families in need. This recognition couldn't come to a more deserving organization than Angel Flight, nor to a more deserving individual than Mack Secord.

On behalf of those who need help, thanks to Angel Flight, and to Mack Secord, for letting your passion for service take flight and for making hope soar.