

**Introduction of ILA President Langhorne Bond,
keynote address speaker,
ILA-36, Orlando, FL, October 16, 2007**

By

**Robert W. Lilley, Ph. D.
Aviation Management Associates, Inc.
Secretary, ILA**

What a pleasure to speak to this group again, and particularly at an ILA meeting co-organized by our long-time dear friend John Beukers. *Aah, we could tell you stories...!* But for now allow me at least a few words:

Check the Megapulse Past-President poster to refresh your memory of those ILA leaders who brought us to this moment. I get to introduce the current one – who with characteristic modesty has described his positions as “sometimes right, and seldom in doubt”.

The philosopher Yogi Berra once observed, “The future isn’t what it used to be.” Your President gave Yogi’s quote new meaning when he joined the ILA Board in 1999. Since then, it’s been, for him, some two dozen papers – uncounted meetings, travel, all those “goodies” that go with a really worthwhile “retirement project”...

No names here, to avoid the wrath of the guilty, but the “usual suspects” he inherited have collectively been called:

“**Biased**” – Our response has been “No, we have a rational point of view, backed up by competent study and experiment. Our accusers are the “biased” ones if they choose to dismiss it out of hand.”

“**The enemy**” – We didn’t like that too much, coming as it did from well-funded GPS types who were in the driver’s seat. But we came to interpret those remarks as evidence that we were being noticed -- having an effect – making our case – and that those guys were just overconfident and under-secure. It was never anti-GPS on our part. Full stop.

“**The Loran Mafia**” – If this was intended as an insult, we turned it on its head and came to believe it more a term of endearment – or at least a term of identification – a not-so secret handshake. Even our friends and colleagues use it, now.

Our President also inherited the legacies of former Wild Geese like our late colleagues Bill Polhemus, Jim Culbertson, Walt Dean, Bill Brogdon and others whose complete works deserve special mention..

We’re doing this right. We are optimistic about success without having bribed anybody. We've talked to U.S. Congresspeople about keeping the FAA and Coast Guard programs alive, but we have not promised anything under the table. He and we have used “the process” and are making us a little safer -- our quality of life a little more secure.

But: my *story* now is that our keynote speaker stood tall indeed as moderator of the last panel at the Air Traffic Control Association in Nashville in 1996, almost exactly 11 years ago, October 17. You remember those days. GPS was getting deserved attention for the remarkable system it is. The trouble started when praise evolved into the belief that GPS would do it *all*. Everything. Everywhere. All the Time. Saving Billions. Curing Disease, Replanting the Rain Forests...

Our leader issued the only cautionary words that week. Paraphrasing: "Reliance on any one system as a sole means of service in a critical situation is simply unacceptable." After the collective gasp died out, I impulsively ran forward with a business card and asked, "Can we talk about Loran?"

You can visit his remarks in the 1996-Proceedings of the ILA. Shortly after, John Beukers and I learned just how enthusiastic, and how disposed to delegation was our new recruit. We were reviewing, editing, suggesting, answering questions, advising ... almost immediately and almost continuously!

On other business, I returned to that very spot this past August, – Nashville, USA -- Opryland Hotel – the Tennessee Ballroom -- the very spot. I looked for a commemorative medallion inlaid in the carpet, a plaque on the wall, but nothing. Nothing but some very noticeable echoes from a decade ago, when – capital letters now -- "Something Important Started".

As they say, the rest is (recent) history. Our President has made friends wherever the natives speak Loran.

He deserved, and received your Association's Medal of Merit in 1999, and has kept right on earning it ever since.

Here is the man who moved the Loran question to a matter of policy at the perfect time.

It is an honor to call him colleague and friend: Your once, present and future President, *living large* in the Age of Loran, the Honorable Langhorne Bond.