

## Thomas Tait

For nearly two decades Thomas Tait has served around the world working to help foreign governments improve their tourism industries. A Nevada resident for 37 years, Mr. Tait served as the Chief Executive of the Nevada Commission on Tourism from 1989 to 2001 focusing on tourism promotion and air-service development for Nevada.

In 1993, Mr. Tait was recruited as an executive consultant by the United States Department of State. He was given an assignment to provide a comprehensive tourism survey of Bulgaria to determine its marketability to western travelers. Tait was invited back three additional times over the next two years to assist in more specific development projects in conjunction with Bulgaria's emerging private sector. Service on behalf of the State Department has also placed Tait in Ukraine, Siberia, Russia, the Republic of Georgia, Montenegro, China, Romania, Tajikistan and Poland.

As part of his regular duties with the Nevada Commission on Tourism, Tait opened and managed foreign offices in Japan, the United Kingdom, Taiwan, and South Korea. He was a founder of the Visit USA Committee in Taiwan, and was a key participant in the passage of legislation to make the United States Visa Waiver Program permanent. In 2000, Mr. Tait was named the executive producer and manager of the Western Summit on Global Tourism.

Mr. Tait was named a Distinguished Nevadan on two occasions, in 1984 by Governor Richard Bryan and again in 1998 by Governor Bob Miller. He was presented the Gary Collie Award for Outstanding Service to Victims of Crime by America's Most Wanted host John Walsh in 1985, was presented the Global Citizen Award by the National Council for International Visitors in 2001, and the Outstanding Community Achievement Award from the Greater Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce for 2004 / 2005.

Currently, Mr. Tait is the President of the Russian Heritage Highway Foundation, is a member of the Nevada Commission on Sports and serves on the Outside Las Vegas Foundation board of trustees. He is married to Katherine and has two daughters, Courtney (14) and Casey (11).