



U.S. Department of
Transportation

News:

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Washington, D.C. 20590

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REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY
SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ELIZABETH HANFORD DOLE
SAVED BY THE BELT AWARD
TO
SUGAR RAY LEONARD
FEBRUARY 13, 1985
WASHINGTON, D. C.

I especially want to thank President Charles Pulley and members of the American Seat Belt Council for the outstanding work you do in promoting the use of safety belts in automobiles. You are part of a grassroots movement that is emerging and having a tremendous influence in the safety belt campaign, just as a similar movement of a couple of years ago did on the issue of drunk driving. I applaud you and encourage you to continue your efforts to get people to buckle up.

All across America people are beginning to realize what you here today know so well: safety belts are a proven lifesaver. They often mean the difference between life and death or serious injury.

I'm glad New York, New Jersey and Illinois have passed mandatory safety belt usage laws and other states are seriously considering belt use legislation.

The person we honor today knows the value of buckling his safety belt. Ray Leonard was involved in a serious collision when a pickup truck struck the jeep he was driving in Beltsville, Maryland on January 2nd. He was wearing his safety belt. His injuries might have been more severe if Ray hadn't buckled that belt as a normal part of his driving routine.

Sugar Ray, you are an inspiration to millions of young people. They admire and love you, not only for your boxing skills but for your winning attitude. May you inspire them with your wisdom in using a safety belt as well.

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