



U.S. Department of
Transportation

News:

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DOT AWARDS CEREMONY
OCTOBER 17, 1985

People who live to themselves are generally left to themselves. Or, in the words of Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, "The man who lives for himself is a failure. Even if he gains much wealth, position or power he is still a failure. The man who lives for others has achieved true success... even though material prosperity or outward honors never come to him."

This morning, we recognize 129 of our colleagues, who on the job have demonstrated their own unmistakable commitment to serve others. Selflessness and dedication are the Alpha and Omega of government service. And while not every American is equipped with the vision to see that for himself, we who serve at the public's behest observe it daily.

As one who has been privileged to spend most of her professional life in public service, I know a good deal about the compact of trust which exists between us and the traveling, taxpaying public. Today, I am pleased to recognize some very special --though by no means unique -- examples of what can happen when men and women extend themselves in confronting the challenges of a nation on the go. At the Department of Transportation, we make policies, to be sure. But most of all, we make a difference, a positive difference, in the lives of millions for whom we are, at best, a distant presence.

We provide a service which affects the livelihood of virtually every American. For what is more essential to their economic well-being or personal peace of mind than a safe, efficient network of highways, airways, railways and waterways? Whenever you hear the slogan, "Reach out and touch someone," I would ask you to reflect on just how many people we reach out to every day we report to work. Not only in the legislative and administrative

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initiatives we carry out -- but no less important, in a thousand unheralded but life enhancing programs.

We're all familiar with such groundbreaking advances as truck deregulation and the National Airspace System Plan. Less well-known but no less deserving of public applause are a number of efforts which stamp this as a caring department. There is, for instance, our close relationship with Hine Junior High School, which sits in the shadow of our headquarters and which, thanks in large measure to the unstinting dedication of DOT volunteers, has forsaken the shadows of educational or social neglect.

There is the DOT Day Care Center, funded by generous employees who on their own initiative raised some \$10,000 at a recent ice cream social and auction. Our Day Care Center continues to embody the spirit of voluntarism even as it supplies a vitally needed service to those who wish to maintain a family while belonging to the DOT family.

There is the ongoing -- and uplifting -- Combined Federal Campaign, which I am privileged to chair this year. The CFC channels our time and talent to raise the spirits and bolster the confidence of thousands of our neighbors in the District and surrounding communities. A Coast Guard track team who run not for their lives, but to improve the quality of life in and around San Francisco; vital assistance to Sarah's Circle, a Washington community house for the elderly poor in the Adams-Morgan area, a food and clothing drive for victims of last June's terrible twisters in Ohio and Pennsylvania: these are just a few of the heartfelt expressions which remind us of the old axiom "What you keep to yourself, you lose; what you give away you keep forever."

Here, we make a habit as well as a vocation out of giving. Thanks to our public policy gifts, all of America's transportation systems are safer and less subject to alcohol or drug abuse. The Coast Guard's saving of lives through drug interdiction and search and rescue provide an enormous contribution. We are modernizing and upgrading the air traffic control system, enhancing the ribbons of steel and concrete which link our markets with our consumers, providing needed reforms for U.S. maritime.

Thanks to our personal and professional drives, we are opening up new opportunities for women and minorities. Our 10-point program developed with the assistance of our women, has enabled employees to enhance their self confidence and productivity by proving to themselves and their employers that they can develop new skills. Since October, 1983, over 550 employees have gained experience through upward mobility, graduate co-op programs, and air traffic controller jobs. Of those, more than 70 percent have been minorities or women employees. Almost 200 employees have taken part in the innovative professional exchange program, and we have trained 560 women in the Seminar for Prospective Women Managers. In just 2-1/2 years, women's representation in the Department has increased from 19 percent to 23 percent. These opportunities have been instrumental in increasing representation of minorities and women in the Department's work force.

As a Department, we are also improving services and opportunities for the disabled. We are committed to an affirmative action program that emphasizes employment and training opportunities that will enable each disabled employee to achieve his or her maximum potential. Externally, we are involved in a host of programs to prohibit discrimination on the basis of handicap in all federally assisted programs and to eliminate both physical and artificial barriers to transportation.

None of these objectives is achieved through standard operating procedures. All of them require individual dedication and persistence. They call for teamwork, patience, the ability to listen and the determination to lead. Ultimately, they depend for their success on people --people willing to give more of themselves than the letter of the law or the wording of their contract might demand.

Wayne Waltrip is such an individual. When Wayne, an Oakland, California, air traffic controller, was selected for a new job assignment in the Washington headquarters, he chose to bicycle 3,300 miles as a means to raise money for his favorite charity, the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Thus far, volunteers have collected more than \$13,000 in FAA contributions.

Such qualities are not always easy to come by. Yet they exist abundantly here, as well as in the regional offices which serve as our eyes and ears on the nation. The quality of our concern and the depth of our commitment at DOT is awesome. And each committed achiever is supported and advised by so many gifted and generous colleagues. Today, let me renew my own promise to be worthy of your service.

Ladies and gentlemen, as far as I am concerned, the DOT work force is comprised of 100,000 winners. As Teddy Roosevelt put it, "It is not the one who points out how the strong man stumbled.... The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred with sweat and dust and blood; who strives valiantly... Who, if he wins, knows the triumph of high achievement; and who, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly."

This morning, I am delighted to congratulate a cross-sampling of this remarkable body, which knows, as few others, the triumph of high achievement and the exhilaration of daring greatly. Awards such as these may convey, but they can never fully communicate, the pride I feel in you, who are the Department of Transportation.

Thank you very much.

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