



U.S. Department of  
Transportation

# News:

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs  
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Contact: Jennifer Hillings  
Tele.: (202) 426-4570

REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY  
SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ELIZABETH HANFORD DOLE  
YWCA WOMEN OF THE YEAR AWARD  
APRIL 30, 1986  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Thank you so much for this award. I will cherish it for many reasons, not the least of which is that it comes from the YWCA of the National Capital Area, an organization possessed by the American tradition of service and the Christian virtues of love and friendship and dedication to others. I feel very humble at this hour. For it is I who should be honoring you. What started in Boston in 1868 quickly grew to an outstanding national institution serving working young women in the industrial revolution in cities all across America. Mrs. Lucretia Boyd, a missionary, asked "cannot something be done by benevolent ladies for our working young women that will remain a permanent institution?" and she rallied 30 women to found the first YWCA in the U. S. in Boston. Five Washington, D. C., women followed her example in establishing this organization on February 2, 1905.

My how times have changed, especially since 1932, the 50th anniversary of teenage work. At the anniversary celebration Mrs. Herbert Hoover was cutting a tremendous cake with 50 candles burning so brightly that the frosting caught fire. And right there in front of everyone the wife of the President of the United States had to beat out the fire with a silver cake knife.

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With the changing times the needs of working young women changed and the exciting and endearing feature of the YWCA is that it changed too to continue to fulfill its role as helper of the working woman.

For more than 80 years the YWCA of the National Capital Area has served our community -- built the first swimming pool for women, hired the first woman elevator operator in this city, welcomed ratification of the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote, established the Hannah Harrison School of Industrial Arts to give vocational training to needy women and supported the nonviolent civil rights movement -- just to name a few. Your outstanding efforts continue along parallel lines with programs we have initiated to help women at the Department of Transportation. You provide child care programs. DOT opened its child care center last year. Your vocational and financial management training meets a vital need for working women. Our DOT women's initiatives are preparing more women than ever to assume managerial positions and to expand existing skills -- for example, to become air traffic controllers and move into more skilled and higher paying jobs. So you see we share like mind and similar commitment. In fact, commitment such as yours inspired me to decide upon a career in public service because I wanted to make a difference -- a positive difference in people's lives.

May you future endeavors continue to be blessed with great success. I thank you very much.

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