

SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ANDREW CARD JR.  
DOT BLACK HISTORY MONTH CLOSING CEREMONY  
FEBRUARY 27, 1992  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

EVENT: DOT Black History Ceremony. 5-7 minute remarks.

It is truly a pleasure to be here and celebrate with you the many contributions that have been made to this country by Black Americans. I know that throughout this month, a number of special events were planned at DOT to highlight the achievements of so many outstanding American Black men and women -- so I especially want to thank all of you who have been involved for the fine job you have done.

In fact, I've heard that this years DOT Black History Month observance has been one of the most successful to date. So Bill (Bill Hudson, Director of Civil Rights) congratulations! Now you and all the members of the Black History Month Committee have quite a challenge ahead of you in planning the 1993 program.

As Deputy Secretary Jim Busey pointed out when he spoke at the DOT Black History Month Kick-off several weeks ago, for generations, black history was lost, forgotten or neglected. That is why it is so very important today that we remember and celebrate the heroic struggle of Black Americans for economic opportunity and political freedom.



We should also note, and take pride in the fact that Alex Haley -- whose prize winning novel "Roots" galvanized Black Americans to search for their family origins -- was a fellow DOT employee, as he served for twenty years in the U.S. Coast Guard.

As the new Secretary of the Department, I just want to let you know that we will continue the work of our predecessors -- in making sure that DOT remains a leader in creating a work environment which is "all inclusive."

We remain firmly committed to this Department's on-going and special efforts to recruit, train, and advance blacks at all levels -- throughout every mode. We remain fully committed to working closely with traditionally black colleges and universities in recruiting the best candidates possible for our job openings. And we remain totally committed to expanding our career development programs -- from entry to senior level -- to ensure that all employees have an opportunity to contribute fully to the Department's mission.

Having come from the White House, I can assure you that President Bush has made it quite clear, that in his administration, racism or discrimination will not be tolerated. And that diversity remains a cornerstone of his domestic agenda. If government is to be truly

representative of the people, then it must reflect the cultural and racial makeup of this nation as a whole.

Let us therefore join together, and work toward Dr. Martin Luther King's dream of a people united in peace and dignity.

Again, congratulations to all the participants in this very successful Black History Month. And I share with everyone our delight in having Colonel Frederick D. Gregory -- a NASA Astronaut -- with us here today at our closing ceremony.

Thank you.

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