

SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ANDREW H. CARD
SWEARING IN CEREMONY
MARCH 11, 1992
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Thank you very much Mr. President, for your kind remarks. My respect and admiration for you are unbounded. The United States and the world are fortunate to have your leadership.

I am grateful for the confidence you have placed in me to guide the best agency in government. And I am truly honored.

Thank you Justice Thomas for administering the oath of office. You are a true and valued friend. And my thanks to you, too, Rev. Keller.

Cabinet colleagues, Members of Congress, distinguished guests and friends -- thank you for sharing this day with me and my family. Seeing five of my predecessors here reminds me that I have to fill very big shoes indeed. So thanks, Alan Boyd, Bill Coleman, Neil Goldschmidt, Jim Burnley and Sam Skinner.

Let me also thank our Deputy Secretary, Admiral Jim Busey, for his outstanding leadership during this time of transition. He ably guided the Department as Acting Secretary. Jim, I'm honored to have you on my team.

From Holbrook, Massachusetts to the White House, I have had the benefit of working with talented, dedicated people. Each one contributed to this moment.

Yet those who know me know this: there are none from whom I derive more support and happiness than my family. You have already met my daughter, Tabetha. I'd like to introduce other members of my family who are here today.

Mr. President, I promise not to tell my grandmother story. But, in addition to those I just introduced, I must add my thanks to her, because she instilled in me early a desire to be an activist in politics -- to serve, to contribute, to try to make a difference.

As Secretary of Transportation I can assure you that I will do just that. Ethics will be my guide and my decisions each and every day will be based on promoting safety, accessibility and efficiency in our transportation system. I know that I have the firm commitment of this Department in support of this mission.

Mr. President, I'm deeply impressed with the dedicated men and women of DOT. The Coast Guard saves a life every 90 minutes. Our FAA air traffic control work force guides more than 170,000 operations a day. Our highway safety programs save nearly 20,000 lives a

year -- that's 52 lives every single day -- talk about responsibility and making a difference on the job!

We have here with us today, Mr. President, many DOT employees whose work effects the lives of all Americans. With willing hands and open minds, they make things happen -- whether behind a desk, out at sea, or on the road -- throughout our nation's transportation system.

All of you accomplish so very much -- each day, year-in and year-out -- I'm proud to be joining your team.

In closing, we know that things do not simply happen -- things are made to happen. This museum is proof that vision requires hard work and total commitment. From the Wright Brothers, to Chuck Yeager, to the crew of the aircraft **Voyager** -- which accomplished the amazing feat of flying nonstop around the globe without refueling -- Americans have been at the forefront of making their dreams reality.

This same spirit of innovation animates America's transportation professionals. From the days our ancestors spikes to span the national by rail, to more recent construction of true intermodal transportation links, we are a country that thrives on meeting difficult challenges.

On April 1st, the Department of Transportation becomes 25 years old. The theme for our 25th year is "The Future Starts Here." How true that is! How we travel to jobs, to markets and to our homes tomorrow depends on how well the job is done at DOT today.

So let me say that all of us at the Department are ready to face head-on the demanding challenges. To create jobs now. And to ensure safety, accessibility, and efficiency in our transportation system in the coming years.

Thank you.

###