

SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ANDREW H. CARD, JR.  
25TH ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY  
MAY 12, 1992  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

**WELCOME AND RECOGNIZE STAGE GUESTS**

Welcome! Thank you, Admiral Busey, and thank you all for participating in this commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of the United States Department of Transportation.

And special thanks to Coast Guard Chaplain, Captain James Goode.

I feel a little bit like those actors and actresses who announce the winners at the Academy Awards. I may be at the podium, but its the winners in the audience they want to see. Vince and Larry, and the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.

Michael Gross, from the series "Family Ties" is here on the platform. Michael is the spokesman for Operation Lifesaver.

None of these celebrities require an introduction. But I do want to say a few kind words about each of my predecessors who could join us today. Each of them deserves their own speech, but I promise not to keep you here long, or keep you away from the terrific exhibits and activities going on around us.

It all started with Alan Boyd, the George Washington of DOT. He not only gave birth to DOT, but he taught it to crawl, walk and run -- all before it turned two years old. Alan, you're truly the father of DOT and we're honored you're here today (*pause for applause*).

John Volpe, Claude Brinegar and Bill Coleman couldn't be here today, but Senator Brock Adams is here. Being Secretary was just one stop on the way of a brilliant and distinguished career in public service. Thanks, Brock, for making the trip down Constitution Avenue for a stroll down memory lane.

Jim Burnley's tenure as Secretary may have been a brief one, but he's worn many hats and touched many lives at DOT. He was General Counsel and later Deputy Secretary under Elizabeth Dole. Jim is remembered not only for contributions to safety but for carrying the twin torches of privatization and deregulation.

And I am honored that my predecessor Sam Skinner could sneak over from the White House for a few moments to join us. The ink has yet to dry on Sam Skinner's chapter, and it's a bit early to know what he'll best be remembered for. There's a lot to choose from. But the title Master of Disasters will be one of them. He



raised trouble shooting to an art form. And he left me the best department in the government. Thanks, again, Sam.

So much more could be said about each of the special guests on our platform today, or the contributions of Neil Goldschmidt, Elizabeth Dole and Drew Lewis, and the others who are not here today. Let's hear from those who played a part in our history.

First, ALAN BOYD.

Mr. Boyd makes his remarks.

Now, BROCK ADAMS.

Mr. Adams makes his remarks.

Next, JIM BURNLEY

Mr. Burnley makes his remarks.

And now, Sam Skinner.

Mr. Skinner makes his remarks.

And now, one who lends his tremendous talents to the cause of safety at our railroad grade crossings, the spokesman for operation lifesaver, let's hear from MICHAEL GROSS.

Now, let me tell you what a special moment this is for me, or for anyone who has played a part in that great success story of America's transportation system.

This is a very special occasion for me, ladies and gentlemen, as it must be for anyone who loves the marvelous, colorful history of America's transportation system. And what a success story it is.

That success story really began in the 1800's when the Golden Spike was driven into a rail in Utah. It linked our great land East to West, and the 19th century gave way to development and economic growth previously unknown to man. Early in this century, the Wright Brothers launched the future from a windy beach in North Carolina. It represented one small step for aviation, and one giant leap for America.

Here, in the last decade of the 20th Century we meet to commemorate our 25 years of revolutionary progress. Our theme is "The Future Starts Here" because for 25 years this Department has been turning dreams into reality. Like the dream of a network of interstate highways that criss-cross our land like a giant web, and the dream of safe, efficient and affordable airline travel. That process begins anew today. At this moment, transportation is undergoing yet another change. We have entered a new era of transportation.



Yet the dreams and priorities that guided the Department during Alan Boyd's tenure still apply today.

Safety is -- and always will be -- the number one priority of the Department of Transportation. Beyond that, the mission that will carry us into the 21st century is intermodalism, spawned by a decade of economic deregulation of transportation. Intermodalism has -- and will -- link up America and form a seamless transportation system -- one that will keep our economy competitive, productive and strong.

On the Department's first anniversary Alan Boyd raised the new DOT flag, the triskelion (try-ske-leon), the Greek symbol of motion. As he hoisted the new flag in front of the FAA building, which was the Department's home at the time, Secretary Boyd said "A year ago, I thought by now we'd have all the answers. But now I realize we have only begun to frame the question."

The wisdom of Alan Boyd's words lived on in my predecessor Sam Skinner, who said we must have a National Transportation Policy to frame the questions for the future, to show us where we are going and how to get there. And in a year the President's NTP was produced, reframing all those questions Alan Boyd had asked more than two decades earlier.

Now with the NTP as our roadmap, DOT must reinvent itself once again. That's the reason for our theme -- The Future Starts Here. We know the questions will never end. For as long as America maintains the greatest transportation system in the world we will be reframing the questions and reinventing transportation to keep up with the times.

NOW, YOU INTRODUCE THE ESSAY WINNERS.

One of our goals when we began preparation for our 25th anniversary was to reach out to the young people in America. We wanted to encourage them to learn more about transportation in America, and especially in their own local areas. This is in keeping with the National Transportation Policy goal of bringing more young people into transportation careers.

It is my pleasure to present the winners of the Department of Transportation's first national high school essay contest. And I am going to ask them a few questions. The winners are:

Elizabeth Brill, of Cold Spring Harbor High School, Cold Spring Harbor, New York. Miss Brill lives in Huntington, New York.

Janet Lin of Foot Hill High School, in Santa Ana, California.



Congratulations, ladies. As you know we received almost 700 essays from across the nation and you should be very proud that yours were the winners. In addition to your trip, I would like to present each of you with a certificate for a \$200 savings bond from the DOT Federal Credit Union.

#### YOU PRESENT CERTIFICATES

You will be happy to learn that Senator John Seymour of California, and Senator Alfonse D'Amato of New York, have offered to submit your essays to the Congressional Record to become part of our nation's history.

Elizabeth and Janet, please answer a few questions for us? Elizabeth, first.

#### QUESTIONS FOR YOUR USE IF NEED BE, DIALOGUE IS THE GOAL

- Why don't you tell us a little about what you wrote and why?
- What is the most important thing you learned from this experience?
- Tell us a little about your interests and your future goals?

Now, Janet, it's your turn.

REPEAT QUESTIONS IF NEED BE TO KEEP CONVERSATION GOING

And now, I will ask our essay contest winners to join me in the happy chore of cutting our birthday cake..

NOW YOU MOVE TO POSITION FOR CUTTING OF THE CAKE.

YOU CUT CAKE. Give first two pieces to essay contest winners.

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