

DOT News

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Wagner Powers Thompson McClendon Del Corro Autrey

Outstanding

Sea Action, Lifesaving Awards for USCG Men

Rear Admiral Austin C. Wagner was among six Coast Guard military personnel and auxiliaries honored for exceptionally meritorious service or heroic action at the eighth annual awards ceremony of the Department of Transportation.

Admiral Wagner was awarded the Legion of Merit for his exceptionally meritorious performance of duty as commander of the Seventh Coast Guard District (Miami) for the two years ending July 1975. He initiated actions which significantly reduced the flow of contraband into the United States.

These actions included expanding the mission of surface law enforcement patrols, cooperating with the Drug Enforcement Agency and the Government of Jamaica, plus directing a five-month continuous patrol known as *Operation Buccaneer*. More than 700,000 pounds of marijuana valued at \$203 million in street sales were seized or destroyed in the operation.

Lt. John H. Powers, III was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for extraordinary achievement in aeronautical flight as a helicopter pilot. He evacuated a critically ill seaman the night of Feb. 19-20, 1974, from a merchant vessel 136 miles southwest of Anette, Ak.

Boatswain Mate 2nd Class Lee D. Thompson was awarded the Coast Guard Medal for saving the lives of four persons caught in an apartment fire at Warren, Mich., March 27, 1974. While on leave from his Detroit duty station, Petty Officer Thompson rescued two small children and assisted two adults to safety from the burning building.

Lt. Paul J. McClendon was awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement as aircraft commander of a helicopter used in the perilous rescue of four men from a disabled airboat in Lake St. Clair, Mich., during the night of Feb. 25, 1974.

Aviation Machinist Mate 2nd Class Jaime F. Del Corro was awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while serving as hoist operator aboard a HH-3F helicopter on Nov. 23, 1974. A seriously ill crewman was evacuated from the submarine U.S.S. *JACK* located 120 miles south of Cape Cod, Mass.

John Hale Autrey, Coast Guard Auxiliant, received the Silver Lifesaving Medal for heroic action for rescuing a 12-year-old youth from the Mississippi River below Memphis. He plunged into the murky waters on the night of Aug. 26, 1972 to rescue the

youth who had fallen into the river. Autrey supported the youth until both were pulled to safety.

Secretary Coleman Presents Gold Medal to FHWA's Lamm

Lester P. Lamm, executive director of the Federal Highway Administration, today received the DOT Gold Medal, the Department's highest award. The award is granted in recognition of exceptionally outstanding leadership or service distinguished by achievements of marked national or international significance.

The presentation was made at the 8th Annual DOT Awards Ceremony by Secretary William T. Coleman, Jr.

Lamm's selection for the honor was based on his initiating action plans to assure completion of FHWA programs in light of national priorities including safety, environment pollution, beautification, and relocation of displaced businesses and families.

This is the third award earned by Lamm during his 20 years' service in FHWA.

A 1955 graduate from Norwich University with a degree in civil engineering, Lamm entered FHWA (then Bureau of Public Roads) that year as an engineer trainee. After three months' service he entered the

"... tend to inspire us."

Capacity Crowd Witnesses 8th Annual DOT Awards Ceremony

Thirty-nine Department of Transportation civilian employees and seven members of the U.S. Coast Guard today received recognition for bravery or for outstanding achievement from Secretary William T. Coleman, Jr. at the 8th Annual DOT Awards Ceremony.

Speaking before a capacity crowd of more than 1,000 in the Departmental Auditorium Secretary Coleman said, "Their achievements warrant our esteem, for by personal heroism or exceptional effort they have distinguished themselves, this Department, and the Federal Service... The extra skill and dedication of these uncommon men and women tend to inspire the rest of us."

Deputy Secretary John W. Barnum was master of ceremonies, and assistant secretary William S. Heffelfinger introduced the award winners, giving a brief summary of the deed or achievement that merited the award.

Secretary Coleman made the presentation.

The Secretary's Award for Valor was bestowed on: Everett J. Sinon, FAA; Charles L. MacDonald, FAA; Donald W. Kidder, FAA; Joseph K. Fordham, FAA; Herbert O. Worthley, FRA; and Michael W. Olson, FRA.

In the USCG, the Legion of Merit was awarded RADM. Austin C. Wagner for exceptionally meritorious performance of duty as Commander, Seventh Coast Guard District.

The Secretary's Gold Medal Award for Outstanding Achievement was won by Lester P. Lamm, FHWA.

The Silver Medal denoting the Secretary's Award for Meritorious Achievement was presented to Capt. Richard T.

(See AWARDS, p. 2)



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in October as a second lieutenant and served until November 1957. He resumed his duties with FHWA immediately.

Lamm was named to his present post in July 1973. As executive director of FHWA he provides overall executive direction to the internal operations of FHWA, serving as both "operating boss" and chief engineer.

Heroism Brings Gold Medals to Four in FAA, Two in Alaska Railroad

Four men from the FAA and two from the FRA today received the DOT gold medal for valor, the highest Departmental award for acts of heroism and courage involving great risk by civilian employees under unusual circumstances.

Receiving the medals were: Joseph K. Fordham, Donald V. Kidder, Charles MacDonald, and Everett J. Sinon, Jr., all of the FAA, and Herbert H. Worthley and Michael W. Olson, of the FRA.

Fordham, an air traffic control specialist at the Norfolk, Va. tower, earned his medal for rescuing a pilot who crashed in the Dismal Swamp on May 1, 1975. Leading a party of four through the swamp at night "through tall reed beds,

briars, snakes, fog and hip-deep water" he brought the badly injured pilot to safety.

Kidder, an air traffic control specialist in the Minneapolis, Minn. Air Route Traffic Control Center, was awarded his medal for the rescue of two children and the attempted rescue of their father after their boat capsized during a violent thunderstorm on South Chicago Lake in June 1975. When the boat disappeared, Kidder and two others took their boat

out into the storm to effect the rescue.

MacDonald, an air traffic control specialist in the Boston Air Route Traffic Control Center at Nashua, N.H., won the medal for valor for rescuing a nine-year-old boy who had fallen through the ice on a pond on Dec. 8, 1974. Using the weight of his own body, MacDonald broke a path through the ice to the boy and pulled him to safety and then took him to a hospital.

Supervisory air traffic control specialist Sinon, stationed at the Baltimore, Md. tower, earned his medal by plunging into a burning house to carry two children to safety on May 28, 1974. He then re-entered the house to assure it was empty. As a consequence of his heroic actions Sinon was overcome by smoke and had to be taken to a hospital.

An act of joint heroism earned the valor medal for Worthley and Olson, both of the

Alaska Railroad, Anchorage, Ak.

Worthley, a locomotive engineer, spotted a runaway string of rail cars, including nine petroleum tank cars, moving down an incline from the Anchorage yard into Anchorage on July 2, 1975. With locomotive whistle screaming a warning to work crews and motorists crossing the tracks, Worthley maneuvered his engine ahead of the train and linked up with it to bring it to a halt as it entered Anchorage.

Olson, a conductor, when he saw what was happening, raced to the tracks and jumped on one of the runaway cars when the train passed him. Using the car's handbrake he assisted the engine in stopping the train.



Sinon MacDonald Kidder Fordham Worthley Olson

Sterling Performances

Secretary's Silver Medal Goes to 32 in DOT

The Secretary's Award for Meritorious Achievement, the Silver Medal, was today conferred on 32 Departmental employees by Secretary William T. Coleman, Jr., during the eighth DOT Awards Ceremony.

Honored were:

Captain Richard T. Brower, Jr., for his performance as senior staff officer to the Regional Representative of the Secretary of Transportation in Seattle, and as manager of the Experimental Integrated Grant Program. Brower developed guidelines for the grant program which will be relied on heavily by GSA in preparing new regulations.

Suggestion Saves Million

Glenn E. Halbert, a supply management officer at Coast Guard headquarters, for his leadership in directing the reorganization of the Coast Guard supply system and for his professional skill in managing the supply program which saved an estimated \$1 million. Since 1950, he has served 13 years with the Coast Guard and 12 years with the FAA.

Oliver S. Jackson, an equal employment opportunity civilian officer at the Coast Guard Yard, Curtis Bay, Md., for improving the EEO image of the Yard in the local minority community in Baltimore, and for effective recruiting of minorities into the Yard's apprentice program. Jackson was an Army

combat commander in Vietnam, where he won the Bronze Star and Air Medal in 1969.

Richard P. Arnold, district safety manager of the First Coast Guard District in Boston. A retired Air Force major with 20 years service, Arnold was honored for developing an outstanding safety management program which Admiral J. P. Stewart termed the best in the Coast Guard and probably the best among all the military services.

Rolf M. Wulfsberg, survey statistician at Coast Guard headquarters and former lieutenant (junior grade), for his management of Boating Safety's Management Information Branch. He developed and conducted a nationwide survey of recreational boaters which saved the Coast Guard a minimum of \$100,000.

Instructed Admirals

Nathan L. Marvin, retired professor of English at the Coast Guard Academy, New London, Conn. He served as a deck watch officer aboard a cutter in World War II and retired as a commander in the Reserve in 1973. During 30 years at the Academy, Professor Marvin influenced the education of about 6,000 cadets, including many of the Coast Guard's current admirals and captains.

Peter J. Culicetto, electronics engineer, Third Coast Guard District, New York City, for his

exceptional professionalism in evaluating new prototype equipment and systems for the electronics branch.

Speeded Bridge Permits

Frank A. Martin, marine safety and law enforcement regulations specialist in the Office of Marine Environment and Systems at Coast Guard headquarters, for his exceptional efforts in reducing the backlog of bridge permits from more than 100 to 44 during a four-month emergency period.

Joseph Canny, chief of the analysis division, Office of Environmental Affairs, OST, for his work in coordinating transportation growth and the national concern for environmental quality.

Raymond G. Belanger, director of air traffic service, FAA headquarters, for his leadership in directing major new initiatives in the air traffic service.

Russell J. Frick, chief of the ATC automation division, FAA headquarters, for his achievement in automating the air traffic system in the FAA.

Oscar Shienbrood, attorney advisor, Office of the Chief Counsel, FAA, for excellent performance over several years. During this time he had been responsible for the leadership of the legislative staff during a period with nine congressional hearings.

Devised Airspace System for Iran

Neal A. Blake, deputy director, Office of System Engineering Management, FAA headquarters, for his leadership of an FAA team charged with development of a proposal for a modern national airspace system for Iran.

Malcolm Johnson, general supply specialist, FAA headquarters, for his work in promoting the FAA-wide Minority Business Enterprise Program.

Thomas F. Lynch, chief, logistics division, FAA headquarters, for his achievement in furthering the FAA's Minority Business Enterprise Program.

Bernice M. Deutrich, chief, system staffing, FAA headquarters, for continued outstanding performance in developing the FAA budget to provide for accomplishment of the FAA mission.

William E. Crosby, deputy regional director, FAA New England Region, for his leadership in resolving a very difficult certification procedure in air carrier service in the region under tight time limits.

Maria A. Baylor, equal opportunity specialist, FHWA headquarters, for development and implementation of the FHWA Federal Women's Program.



Lawrence A. Pavlinski (right), program manager of the pedestrian/cyclist branch in NHTSA, accepts an Advanced Certificate of Accomplishment in Public Administration from Dr. John B. Holden, Director of the Graduate School of the Department of Agriculture. Pavlinski completed 14 courses involving 51 quarter credits to achieve his goal. The award was made at a luncheon of the Graduate School at Fort McNair Officer's Club.

Kenneth C. Kippley, chief, program analysis division, FHWA headquarters, for his exceptional leadership in the management of the Highway Trust Fund.

Keith F. Kohler, digital computer system administrator, FHWA headquarters, for his leadership in forming the Transportation Computer Center, and in its subsequent management.

Managed Complex Research

Gerald D. Love, associate administrator for research and development, FHWA headquarters, for his professional leadership and management of highly complex research programs in the FHWA.

William L. Mertz, FHWA associate administrator for planning, for his outstanding achievement in managing FHWA planning and integration of highway-related systems into total transportation planning efforts.

James W. White, FHWA regional administrator, Fort Worth, Texas, for his responsible and energetic leadership in Region 6.

Donald W. Bennett, chief counsel, FRA headquarters, for his service as acting deputy FRA administrator while fulfilling the duties and responsibilities of FRA chief counsel during implementation of the Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973.

Clarence H. Braddock, operations research analyst, FRA headquarters, for his leadership in developing and improving methods and procedures in FRA research programs.

Leader in Minority Hiring

Albert L. Hynes, director, FRA Region 9, San Francisco, for his efforts in recruiting and placing minorities in positions in FRA.

William R. Paxton, supervisory railroad general engineer, FRA headquarters, for his professional skill and leadership in developing track safety standards and regulations, and subsequent inspection programs.

Robert B. Dial, UMTA, supervisory general engineer, for his leadership in directing the design and implementation of the Urban Transportation Planning System.

Mark G. Aron, attorney advisor, Office of the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, OST, for his counsel and exceptional efforts in formulating and coordinating DOT legislative programs.

Gregory D. Wolfe, special assistant for environmental affairs, Office of the General Counsel, OST, for his exceptional achievement in furthering the Department's efforts to protect the environment.

Harold E. Sellers, director, Office of Audits, OST, for his leadership in developing and improving the Office of Audits.

Frederick A. Meister, associate administrator for policy development and review, FAA, for his leadership in the development of aviation policies contributing to airport legislative proposals, the effective management of energy resources, and the preservation of environmental quality.

AWARDS—/from page one

Brower, Jr. USCG; Mark G. Aron, TGC; Gregory D. Wolfe, TGC; Joseph Canny, TES; and Harold E. Sellers, TAD.

Winning the Silver Medal in the USCG were: Glenn E. Halbert; Rolf M. Wulfsberg; Oliver S. Jackson; Richard P. Arnold; Prof. Nathan L. Marvin; Peter J. Culicetto; and Frank A. Martin.

In the Federal Aviation Administration, the Silver Medal recipients are: Raymond B. Belanger; Russell J. Frick; Oscar Shienbrood; Neal A. Blake; Malcolm Johnson; Thomas F. Lynch; Bernice M. Deutrich; William E. Crosby; and Frederick A. Meister.

Silver Medal winners in FHWA are: Maria Baylor; Kenneth C. Kippley; Keith F. Kohler; Gerald D. Love; William L. Mertz; and James W. White.

Awarded the Silver Medal in FRA were: Donald W. Bennett; Charles H. Braddock; Albert L. Hynes; and William R. Paxton.

In UMTA, the Silver Medal was awarded to Robert B. Dial.

The Lawrence R. Schneider Award, presented annually to an especially competent and productive practicing attorney in DOT, was presented to Michael T. Haley.

Lt. John H. Powers III, received the Distinguished Flying Cross for piloting a helicopter which evacuated critically ill seamen from the merchant vessel *Galveston* off the coast of Alaska.

BM2 Lee D. Thompson earned the Coast Guard Medal for heroism for rescuing two small children and two adults in an apartment fire.

The Air Medal was presented to Lt. Paul J. McClendon for meritorious achievement as a helicopter commander in rescuing four men from a disabled airboat in Lake St. Clair, Mich.

For his participation as a hoist operator aboard a Coast Guard helicopter which evacuated a seriously ill crewman from the U.S. submarine *Jack* at sea, AM2 Jaime F. Del Corro earned the Air Medal.

The Coast Guard's Silver Lifesaving Medal went to John H. Autry, CG auxiliary, who rescued a youth from the Mississippi River.

The music for the ceremony was provided by the U.S. Coast Guard Band under the direction of Cdr. Normand J. Buckley. The invocation was delivered by Cdr. Normand A. Ricard, U.S. Navy.

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Eighth Annual DOT Awards Presentation

October 24, 1975

Silver Medal Recipients



Richard T. Brower, Jr.



Mark G. Aron



Gregory D. Wolfe



Joseph Canny



Harold E. Sellers



Glenn E. Halbert



Rolf M. Wulfsberg



Oliver S. Jackson



Richard P. Arnold



Nathan L. Marvin



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Frank A. Martin



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Russell J. Frick



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Neal A. Blake



Malcolm Johnson



Thomas F. Lynch



Bernice M. Deutrich



William E. Crosby



Frederick A. Meister



Maria Baylor



Kenneth C. Kippley



Keith F. Kohler



Gerald D. Love



William L. Mertz



James W. White



Donald W. Bennett



Clarence H. Braddock



Albert L. Hynes



William R. Paxton



Michael T. Haley
Lawrence R. Schneider Award



Robert B. Dial

Shenandoah Saga

FAA Author Traces Last Days of Ill-fated Airship

Three historic markers have been placed on farms in eastern Ohio on the 50th anniversary of the airship *Shenandoah's* crash in a thunderstorm on Sept. 3, 1925. The Navy dirigible broke apart over the hilly

terrain killing one-third of the crew, in a strange accident that scattered sections of the aircraft 12 miles apart.

Thom Hook, acting chief of the Federal Aviation Administration Public Information

Center, is given credit in part for creating interest in marking the sites. His book, "*Shenandoah Saga*", discussed the lack of historic markers after telling the life and death story of the Navy's first helium-filled large rigid airship.

The markers were subsequently erected by the Noble County Bicentennial Commission.

After being wracked violently by prolonged air turbulence, the central section and control car of the *Shenandoah* fell at daybreak into a farmer's garden, carrying 14 crewmen to their death. The farmhouse, now deserted, remains standing atop a high elevation a mile-and-a-half east of Ava, 13 miles south of Cambridge, Ohio.

The stern section, with 20 men aboard, slowly settled safely to earth a half-mile further into the lowland west of the farm. Seven crewmen rode the forward part of the shattered craft as it was carried by entrapped gas cells to a safe landing 12 miles to the southwest, near Sharon, Ohio.

"A lesson learned from the loss of the *Shenandoah* was the absence of fire in the crash," Hook says. "While there was some loss of lift in using helium instead of hydrogen for lift, the fact that 29 survivors went

Studded Tires? They Do Not Measure Up, FHWA Expert Says

Are studded tires the answer to driving through ice and snow?

R. Clarke Bennett of the Federal Highway Administration's Office of Highway Safety doesn't think so. In an address to the National Safety Congress in Chicago in September he said studded tires do more harm than good from a safety standpoint, cause extensive and expensive damage to highway surfaces, and have a minimal effect on reducing stopping distances.

"Stopping distances from 20 mph at 30° glare ice temperature for tires without studs were in the range of 150 feet," he said. "With controlled protrusion studs, this stopping distance dropped to about 125 feet.

on to fly again proved the inherent safety of the non-inflammable gas."

For his book Hook interviewed key crash survivors. He recounts the *Shenandoah's* numerous successful flights over a two-year period, including a 9,317-mile tour of the nation. The airship's home base was Lakehurst, N.J.

You could get the same result in shorter stopping distance as produced by these studs by dropping your speed from 20 to 18 mph."

He also suggested that use of studs can give drivers an unwarranted feeling of safety. On dry pavement, he noted, stopping distances are greater with studded tires than with non-studded tires.

Bennett added that the effect of studded tires on pavement markings is "disastrous." "The wearing away of pavement markings at the onset of winter is the most inopportune time of the year," he said. "New markings can't be installed until the next spring when temperatures are warm enough to allow paint to set. This means that traffic must go without the benefit of pavement markings through the major portion of the winter."

In addition, he said, studded tires crush the reflectorized glass beads often used in pavement markings. "Result, no reflectorized markings, eliminating their effectiveness when they are needed most, at night."

Another safety hazard created by the studded tires, Bennett said, are the ruts they dig in pavements. "The ruts collect water and increase the potential for hydroplaning . . . The ruts also cause extensive splash and spray during wet road conditions."

Bennett also noted that "icy roads in winter occur only about one percent of the time on the major road system. During the other 99 percent of time, the studs wear pavements."

Credit Union Extends Hours

Departmental employees who work in the Transpoint building may now take advantage of Credit Union services Monday through Friday, from 9:30 to 11:30, and from 12:30 to 3:30. Heretofore, the Transpoint office was open only on Tuesday and Wednesdays.

Hours at the Credit Union offices in the DOT headquarters building and in the FAA building remain the same, Monday through Friday from 9:30 to 3:30.

Credit Union services include share accounts (savings), loans for automobile purchase, home improvement, education, debt consolidation, and other worthwhile purposes.

Credit Union manager William Derry said that membership now exceeds 13,000 and is growing. He said assets are more than \$22 million and loans outstanding are \$19,580,000, as of Aug. 1.



At the dedication on an Ava, Ohio farm of an historic marker where part of the airship *Shenandoah* crashed 50 years ago are (from left): Thom Hook, FAA official and author; Mrs. Gloria Hazel, Noble County Bicentennial Committee member; Paul Harvey, news commentator; Mrs. Beulah Van Wagenen, crash eyewitness; and Joseph Gallagher, marker-maker.



Legion of Merit

For exceptionally meritorious conduct in performance of outstanding services. Bronze "V" denotes a combat award.



Distinguished Flying Cross

For heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight.



Air Medal

For meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight.



Silver Lifesaving Medal

Awarded through the Coast Guard for heroic deeds in saving life from perils of the sea.



Gold Medal

Granted by the Secretary in recognition of exceptionally outstanding leadership or service, distinguished by achievements of marked national or international significance.



Award for Valor

Highest DOT award for heroism or courage involving great risk by civilian employees under unusual circumstances.



Silver Medal

Given by the Secretary for exceptionally meritorious service to the Department or Federal government, or for exceptional achievement substantially contributing to accomplishment of DOT's mission or major programs.



Coast Guard Medal

Awarded for heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy of the United States.