

Secretary Praises, Challenges Employees

Secretary Goldschmidt, speaking at the DOT awards ceremony, offered employees a combination of praise—"for what you have achieved"—and challenge for the future.

In office less than two months, Goldschmidt officiated at his first DOT awards ceremony October 9, honoring 107 employees for meritorious service, for acts of heroism, and for all-around excellence. The 12th annual ceremony was held on a red-carpeted platform built over the fountain in the courtyard.

In his opening remarks, the secretary said, "As a relative newcomer to the federal service, it is not only gratifying but extremely comforting to find here the reservoirs of personal skill, professional excellence and dedication these awards denote."

He also challenged employees to work toward the larger goals that concern society—"a sufficiency of energy independent of foreign sources, a stable economy, and an enhanced quality of life for all Americans."

Transportation policies and programs are involved in each of these objectives, Goldschmidt said. "We will not build a better America until we improve the efficiency, the utility and the economy of our transportation systems," he said.

In the first series of awards presented, 48 employees—lawyers, policy analysts, engineers and office directors—walked up the runway to receive the Silver Medal. This is the secretary's award for meritorious achievement.

With Goldschmidt on the platform were Acting Deputy Secretary Linda Heller Kamm, Adm. John B. Hayes, Commandant of the Coast Guard; top officials of the operating administrations and other DOT officials.

Edward W. Scott, Jr., assistant secretary for administration, welcomed the families, friends and co-workers of the award winners and served as master of ceremonies.

Four FAA employees were presented with the award for valor, the highest DOT award for acts of heroism by civilians. They are air traffic controller Donald R. Gottman, of Indianapolis, data systems specialist Paul A. Palmer of the Syracuse airport traffic control tower, and Dale R. Colt and Ronald I. Fedchenko, both electronics technicians at the Lebanon, N.H., airport. Colt did not attend the ceremony. See story on valor awards on page 3.

A 19-year-old Coast Guard enlisted woman, Seaman Ina J. Toavs, and Machinery Technician Mark Eckroth received the Coast Guard Medal for heroism for the night rescue of an unconscious fisherman from stormy surf near the Marin County (Calif.) coast. Seaman Toavs was the first woman to win that medal.

As a result of the same rescue effort, three members of a Coast Guard helicopter crew received the Air Medal for their actions in the rescue of two other fishermen. They are Aviation Electronics



A First: Woman Wins CG Medal

A 19-year-old California enlisted woman received the Coast Guard Medal for extraordinary heroism in the night rescue of an unconscious fishing boat crewman from rocky surf off the Marin County coast.

Seaman Ina J. Toavs of Petaluma, Calif., became the first woman to be awarded the Coast Guard Medal. She was one of five Coast Guard personnel honored at the DOT awards ceremony for courageous efforts in the rescue of three crewmen whose boat had gone aground April 13, 1979, on Bird Rock in Bodega Bay, Calif.

Despite 25-knot winds and 8 to 10-foot seas, Toavs (pronounced Taves) and Machinery Technician Mark L. Eckroth maneuvered a 16-foot whaler among the rocks and used a flashlight to find and rescue one crewman.

Eckroth, who administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation to the man for 45 minutes, received the Coast Guard Medal for extraordinary heroism.

Three members of a Coast Guard helicopter crew were awarded the Air Medal for the rescue of two crewmen from the surf. They are Aviation Electronics Technician Harvey D. Cooke III, the hoist operator, Lt. Eugene L. O'Neil, the pilot, and Lt. Cmdr. Dallas G. Schmidt, Jr., the aircraft commander.

The helicopter crew, dispatched from the Coast Guard Air Station, San Francisco, used the rescue basket to hoist



TOAVS ECKROTH COOKE O'NEIL SCHMIDT

the crewmen from the heavy surf to safety.

Seaman Toavs said of her award, "It's an honor. I'm very proud. If it had not been for the training I received at Bodega Bay Station, I could not have done it."

When the helicopter was forced to land before it could reach one crewman, Eckroth maneuvered the boat among the rocks and pulled the crewman out of the water.

Reservist Wins Award

Kenneth C. Knudsen, a chief boatswain's mate in the Coast Guard reserve, received the Silver Lifesaving Medal for rescuing a man trapped underwater in a sinking truck in the Gulf of Mexico.

Knudsen was fishing from his own boat on May 2, 1978, near Lower Matecumbe Key, Fla., when the truck went off a nearby bridge and plunged into the water.



KNUDSEN

By the time Knudsen reached the scene, the truck was sinking. Disregarding his own safety, Knudsen grabbed a diving mask, and went into the water. By the time he reached the truck, it was 18 feet below the surface.

He opened the damaged door, pulled the unconscious driver out and took him to the surface.

After the driver was placed in a boat, Knudsen administered mouth-to-mouth resuscitation until the victim was breathing on his own.

48 Win Medals for Meritorious Service

The secretary's award for meritorious service, the Silver Medal, was presented to 48 employees at the Department's 12th annual awards ceremony. The medal is awarded for

exceptionally meritorious service or exceptional achievement. The employees who received Silver Medals were:

Office of the Secretary

William B. Bonvillian, director, Office of Congressional Affairs, for leadership and effectiveness in dealing with Congress.

Richard E. Bowman, chief, Rail and Safety Programs Division, for contributions to and assessment of the Department's railroad programs.

Neil R. Eisner, assistant general counsel for regulation and enforcement, for leadership in improving the quality of governmental regulations.

Dr. Robert L. Fairman, deputy assistant secretary for administration, for leadership in implementing Civil Service reform and developing automatic data processing policy.

John E. Harman, acting deputy director, Office of Intermodal Transportation, for directing the office in response to the national energy crisis.

Joseph H. Hermosillo, trial attorney, Office of the Assistant General Counsel for Litigation, for contributions to the Department's efforts in the area of airline mergers.

Diane R. Liff, assistant general counsel for litigation, for representing the Department before the regulatory commissions and supervising the litigation staff.

Edward P. Oppler, deputy director, Office of Air Transportation, for development and implementation of the U.S. policy on international air transportation.

Norman G. Paulhus, Jr., general engineer, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Governmental and Public Affairs, for leadership in developing consultation and technical assistance programs for state and local governments.



BONVILLIAN



BOWMAN



EISNER



FAIRMAN



HARMAN



HERMOSILLO



LIFF



OPPLER



PAULHUS



SEIDMAN



STEVENS



TRILLING

Ellen S. Seidman, attorney-advisor, Office of the General Counsel, for contributions to the development of rail deregulation legislation.

Cmdr. Wayne Stevens, policy analyst, Office of Marine Transportation, for contributions to marine transportation policy analysis and the formation of the Office of Marine Transportation.

Dr. Donald R. Trilling, acting deputy assistant secretary for policy and international affairs, for developing responses to the energy crisis and the trucking shutdown.

U.S. Coast Guard

Alfred F. Chatterton, chief administrative law judge, Office of the Commandant, for statesmanship and meritorious service.

Jerome F. Lundgren, supervisory attorney, Third District Legal Staff, for his initiatives involving the 200 mile fisheries zone and other marine programs.

Albert J. McCullough, administrative officer, Office of Operations, for his accomplishments in search and rescue liaison.

Harold F. McPherson, chief, Seventeenth District Procurement Branch, for his accomplishments in contracting and procurement.

Robert C. Richards, general engineer, Research and Development Center, for conducting full-scale marine fire research tests.

William R. Riedel, chief, Ports and Waterways Planning Staff, for advising the Secretary and the Commandant on water resources programs and policies.

R. Quincy Robe, oceanographer, Research and Development Center, for increasing the effectiveness of the international ice patrol through satellite tracking of icebergs.



CHATTERTON



LUNDGREN



McCULLOUGH



McPHERSON



RICHARDS



RIEDEL

Martin J. Ruebens, deputy chief, Office of Health Services, for management of the Coast Guard's health services support program.

Alvin J. Temin, program analyst, Plans Evaluation Division, for contributions to long range planning.



ROBE



RUEBENS



TEMIN

Federal Aviation Administration

Richard F. Frakes, director, Logistics Service, for revitalizing the management of logistics processes.

Harry A. Lyssy, manager, Houston Airways Facilities Sector, for creating opportunities for increased effectiveness of the sector.

Mervyn M. Martin, director, Rocky Mountain Region, for enhancement of the federal government image through personal example and management initiative.

Siegbert B. Poritzky, director, Office of Systems Engineering Management, for leadership in defining future requirements and policy issues of the air traffic control system.

Ralph N. Straley II, computer systems analyst, Office of Management Systems, for leadership in the design, development, and implementation of a uniform payroll system.



FRAKES



LYSSY



MARTIN



PORITZKY



STRALEY



VINES

James M. Vines, chief, Aircraft Programs Division, for leadership in air safety investigations and management of the FAA aircraft fleet.

Federal Highway Administration

David Goldstein, executive officer, Tenth Region, for the institution of simplified and economical operations.

Richard O. Jones, regional counsel, Eighth Region, for contributions to research in transportation law.

Jay W. Miller, division administrator for Illinois, for management of a highly complex workload.



GOLDSTEIN



JONES



MILLER



CANTEY



FURPHY

Federal Railroad Administration

Wilbert E. Cantey, director, Office of Systems Analysis and Information, for leadership in providing mathematical and economic analyses.

J. Thomas Furphy, assistant general counsel, Enforcement Division, for innovative legal and supervisory skills.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Kennerly H. Digges, director, Office of Passenger Vehicle Research, for leadership in improving passenger vehicle safety and fuel economy.

Alice M. McGonagle, special assistant to the associate administrator for administration, for improving NHTSA's programs and procedures.

Carl E. Nash, policy advisor to the administrator, for dealing with technical questions and controversies in connection with motor vehicle occupant protection standards and new car initiatives.

Judith C. Pasquini, secretary to the administrator, for dedication in carrying out her duties.



DIGGES



McGONAGLE



NASH



PASQUINI



SCOTT



STRICKLAND

Dana L. Scott, associate administrator for administration, for administrative management.

Leamon H. Strickland, safety defects engineer, Office of Defects Investigation, for the Firestone 500 defect investigation and development of the data which defined the Ford Pinto fuel tank defect.



GOTTMAN



COLT



FEDCHENKO



PALMER

4 FAA Men Win Valor Awards For Acts of Personal Bravery

Air traffic controller Donald R. Gottman used his fists to beat his way into a locked car as it sank in a pond and managed to free a woman driver trapped in the car.

For his act of extraordinary courage and tenacity, Gottman was presented with the Secretary's Award for Valor.

Gottman develops and manages training programs at the Indianapolis air route traffic control center.

On August 3, he was driving along an Indiana highway when another car passed him. Seconds later, he saw the car go off the road, through a fence, and plunge into a farm pond.

Gottman drove to the pond, where the car was about 25 feet from shore and sinking. When he reached the car, he could see that the woman was breathing and moving her head. It turned out later that she had gone into a coma as a result of some medication she had taken.

Gottman began beating on the windows and as the water level inside the car rose to within four inches of the roof, he could no longer see the woman in the muddy water. Then he saw that the molding at one end of the windshield had loosened up and there was a small crack in the glass.

After climbing onto the hood, he pounded on the crack with his hands and feet until the windshield broke. He reached in and opened the door and pulled the woman out.

A doctor who arrived on the scene said that if the woman had remained in the water for another minute, she probably would have drowned. Instead she was treated at a local hospital and released.

Two FAA electronics technicians who acted quickly to help save the lives of three persons trapped in a crashed plane received the Secretary's Award for Valor.

An FAA data systems specialist received the valor award for his bold action to prevent a boiler explosion in the Syracuse (N.Y.) Airport traffic control tower.

On Dec. 28, 1978, Dale R. Colt and Ronald I. Fedchenko were working at the Lebanon (N.H.) Regional Airport when a light plane crashed shortly after take-off.

They rushed to the plane and found the pilot and his wife unconscious and the pilot's mother bleeding profusely and hysterically pleading for help. Because the plane was teetering precariously on its nose, Colt supported the aircraft on his shoulders to avert further impact that could ignite the fuel that had saturated the area.

Fedchenko tried to remove the passengers, but all were lodged in such a way that they could not be removed. He unbuckled the belt of the pilot's mother and held her in his arms until the fire department arrived. Firemen foamed the entire area to reduce the threat of fire.

The fire chief said later, "It was lucky there was no fire. If there had been, I doubt anyone would have gotten out alive."

At Syracuse Airport, Paul A. Palmer happened to be in the basement area of the traffic control tower on Dec. 20, 1978, when he noticed steam pouring out from under the boiler room door.

Disregarding his own safety, Palmer entered the steam-filled room and found that the gas-fed fire had become a

Computer Chief Wins Award

"A handicapped person has to do more (than others) in order to prove he can handle a job," says James R. Nichols.

Nichols speaks from experience—23 years in the federal service. He was chosen as DOT's outstanding handicapped employee. He is chief of the information management staff, Executive Secretariat, Office of the Secretary.

The 50-year-old employee, who was stricken with polio at the age of six, wears leg braces and uses crutches.

His superiors said Nichols performs his duties "with enthusiasm and excellence." His dedication was illustrated last year after a snowstorm. While many employees stayed home, Nichols walked on crutches three miles in the snow and cold to the office. He wanted to be sure the computer system was fully operational for the secretary's office.

"The main thing for most handicapped people is to be accepted for the job," he said. "They have to show they can do it."

"A most important thing is personality," Nichols said. "I like to socialize with people. It's important to me to be accepted by my friends and associates."

Nichols operates a minicomputer system, maintains the equipment and responds to information requests.



NICHOLS



107 Workers Receive Awards

(CEREMONY, from page 1)

Technician Harvey D. Cooke III, Lt. Eugene L. O'Neil, and Lt. Cmdr. Dallas G. Schmidt, Jr.

Chief Boatwain's Mate Kenneth C. Knudsen, Coast Guard Reserve, was given the Silver Lifesaving Medal for freeing a driver trapped underwater in a truck near Lower Matecumbe Key, Fla.

Forty employees received the secretary's award for excellence. The award is given to employees in grades

"runaway fire" and the boiler was in danger of exploding.

All the automatic release mechanisms had failed. Palmer acted swiftly. He cut off the natural gas supply, extinguishing the fire, and manually operated one pressure release mechanism to reduce the steam buildup.

GS-1 through GS-9 and wage board equivalents for outstanding performance in all aspects of their work.

Seven employees were honored for outstanding achievement in promoting equal opportunity. This award is granted to recognize those who have no specific equal employment duties but who excel in their efforts to promote such opportunity.

James R. Nichols, chief of the information management staff, Executive Secretariat, Office of the Secretary, was recognized as the outstanding handicapped federal employee for consistently exceeding job requirements despite his handicap.

Kenneth N. Weinstein, a trial attorney with the Office of the General Counsel, received the Schneider Award. This award is given each year to an outstanding young attorney. Weinstein was chosen for his exceptional performance in significant litigation cases.

Twelfth Annual Silver Medal Awards Presented

(SILVER, from page 2)

Urban Mass Transportation Administration

Michael S. Bates, attorney-advisor, Office of the Chief Counsel, for contributions to regulation development.

Ronald J. Fisher, director, Office of Service and Methods Demonstrations, for management of the service and methods demonstration program.

Pamela M. Hollar, special assistant to the deputy administrator, for formulation, articulation, and implementation of minority business enterprise program policy.

Harold B. Williams, director of civil rights, for conceptualization and deployment of civil rights guidance.

Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation

Frederick A. Bush, general counsel, for leadership in the formulation and implementation of the corporation's real estate acquisition program.

Research and Special Programs Administration

Clarence G. Collins, Jr., director of emergency transportation, for outstanding performance.

William G. Gaffney, chief, Budget Office, Transportation Systems Center, for developing and managing innovative budgetary programs.

Robert J. Ravera, director, Office of University Research, for leadership and diplomacy on behalf of the Department.

Dr. Frank C. Tung, chief, Urban Systems Division, Transportation Systems Center, for technical contributions to urban transportation research and development.



BATES



FISHER



HOLLAR



WILLIAMS



BUSH



ROBB

David C. N. Robb, supervisory general engineer, Office of Comprehensive Planning, for leadership in extending the navigation season of the Saint Lawrence Seaway.



COLLINS



GAFFNEY



RAVERA



TUNG

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40 Employees Honored for Excellence

The secretary's award for excellence is granted to employees who have been outstanding in all aspects of their work. Eligibility for the award is limited to employees in grades GS-1 through GS-9 and wage board equivalents.

The 40 employees who received the award at the DOT awards ceremony were:

Office of the Secretary—Marguerite E. Baker, Atla B. Carroll, Constance L. Gray, Elliott Himelfarb, Katherine M. Jeffries, Carolyn Ratcliffe, Rafaela S. Valerio, and Roseanne D. Vernon, all of Washington, D.C.

U.S. Coast Guard—Howard G. Bauer, Groton, Conn.; Carolyn L. Jasmin, New Orleans; John E. Kelley, Boston; Mary Ellen Mahoney, Groton; Blair M. Marasco, Juneau, Alaska; and Kenneth R. Ross, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Federal Aviation Administration—Barbara A. Clyburn, Anchorage, Alaska; Yvonne L. Davis, Anchorage; Larry Robinson, Burlington, Mass.; Shirley F. Rodger, Anchorage; Patricia A. Schumann, Washington; Lois H. Shute, Anchorage; and Patricia Wilson, Washington.

Federal Highway Administration—Antoinette A. Ferrare, Trenton, N.J.; Linda Lueneburge, Bismarck, N.D.; Jane Anne Pohl, Jefferson City, Mo.; Anna Marie Richnafsky, Washington; and Marjorie L. Thomas, Springfield, Ill.

Federal Railroad Administration—Bonnie G. Bailey, Anchorage; and Carolyn M. Duffy, Shelva C. Elliott, and Mary Ellen Wirsing, all of Washington.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration—Marian P. Feldman, Atlanta; Mary Freeman, Washington; and Joyce E. Tannahill, Washington.

Urban Mass Transportation Administration—Vera T. Pegues, Washington.

Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation—Keith G. Chevrier, Mary A. Collyer, Helen J. Evans, and Raymond D. Washburn, all of Massena, N.Y.

Research and Special Programs Administration—Victor E. Degn and Fanny Mar, both of Cambridge, Mass.

Seven Employees Get Awards For EEO Efforts

Seven employees received the Secretary's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Equal Opportunity.

The award, which was presented for the first time last year, is intended to honor employees, supervisors and managers having no specific EEO duties who promote equal opportunity through unusually effective skill, leadership and perseverance. Those honored were:

Office of the Secretary

Cynthia Straker Pierce, attorney-advisor with the General Counsel's office, for an outstanding contribution in promoting equal employment in the DOT's attorney recruitment program.

James H. Washington, management analyst in the Office of Management Planning, for an outstanding contribution in developing and organizing the Department's Minority College Workshop in



May 1979. The workshop has improved access to DOT programs for minority colleges.

U.S. Coast Guard

Capt. Ralph C. Hill, (not shown) for efforts in support of the DOT's equal employment opportunity program while serving as commanding officer of the Coast Guard Base in New Orleans from July 1978 to June 1979.

Capt. John F. Lobkovich, commanding officer of the Coast Guard Yard, Curtis Bay, Baltimore, for innovative leadership and personal dedication to promoting equal opportunity in employment and minority enterprise.

Ralph C. Vaca, (not shown) supply management officer with the 12th

District, San Francisco, for fostering an awareness of Hispanic culture and support of equal employment for all minorities.

Federal Highway Administration

Donato J. Altabelli, FHWA division administrator in Hartford, Conn., for demonstrating his concern for others which resulted in the employment of minority and handicapped persons in private industry, state and federal governments.

Joseph R. Ruland, supervisory accountant in FHWA's Denver office, for encouraging and assisting the men and women of his branch to develop their full potential and utilize their skills to the maximum.

Weinstein Wins Lawyer Award

Kenneth N. Weinstein, a trial attorney in the Office of the Assistant General Counsel for Litigation, received the Department's 1979 Schneider Award. He was honored for his exceptional performance, particularly in trying aviation negligence cases.

The award is named for Lawrence R. Schneider, chief counsel of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration from 1971 until his death in 1974. The annual award is presented to a practicing attorney who has shown special competence and productivity. Only attorneys who have practiced less than 10 years are eligible.

Weinstein, 33, joined the Department in 1974 as an honors attorney. He received his bachelor's degree in economics from Yale University in 1968 and his law degree from Yale law school in 1974.

A native of Valley Stream, Long Island, N.Y., Weinstein, his wife, Linda, daughter, Erika, 4, and son, Jacob, 2, live in Silver Spring, Md.



WEINSTEIN