

DOT Today



Moving America Together

Happy Anniversary DOT!

This month, at the Department of Transportation, we are commemorating the past 25 years with ritual and ceremony, a logo that looks to the future and a special anniversary booklet we hope you will enjoy.

The numerous anniversary activities coincide with the 35th Annual National Transportation Week (NTW), which by presidential proclamation is the third week in May, and this year is May 10-15. Congress also set the Friday of that week each year as National Defense Transportation Day.

In Washington, D.C., there will be a May 12 DOT anniversary ceremony on the National Mall from 11

a.m. to 2 p.m., with exhibits and speakers, entertainment, and an anniversary cake.

Other events include the DOT Headquarters Volunteer Committee's annual spring fundraiser, this year called "The Birthday Bash," to take place May 14; and an all-day, by-invitation-only symposium for public and private sector officials, to be held at the National Academy of Sciences on May 13.

Also being celebrated this month:

- Buckle Up! America Week, May 18-25, national campaign to encourage safety belt use.
- National Maritime Day observance, May 19, 9-11 a.m. at the foot of Oronoco Street in Alexandria, Va., where the Liberty Ship JOHN W BROWN will be docked. See the *Calendar of Events, Page 4*, for a complete listing.

Note:

Watch for a recap of all the 25th anniversary activities in the June issue of DOT Today.

Regional Offices: We want to hear about your 25th anniversary activities! The deadline for the June issue is May 21.

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DOT's 25th Anniversary on the Mall

Tuesday, May 12
11 a.m.-2 p.m. (ceremony, 11 a.m.)

Speaker:

- Secretary of Transportation Andrew H. Card Jr.

Invited Guests:

- former secretaries and deputy secretaries
- TV celebrity and Operation Lifesaver spokesperson, Michael Gross
- the two winners of DOT's essay contest for high school students
- Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- Crash Dummies Vince and Larry and representatives from DOT Tots and the Greenleaf Senior Citizens Center

Watch and Listen to:

- the Coast Guard Band, Drill Team and Jazz Combo

Look For:

- Industry and DOT modal exhibits on the Mall
- DOT's "Moving America" video wall at Union Station
- DOT banners at airports; and, for sale in DOT Headquarters building lobbies, DOT logo watches, caps, cups, duffel bags, and T-shirts (sponsored by DOT Employees Recreation Association).

Plus — Anniversary cake!

The 25th anniversary events on the Mall will be carried on the in-house video channel, TV-Ten, on a delayed basis. Check the monitors located in FAA, Coast Guard and DOT Headquarters buildings. Tapes will be made available to the regional offices.

SAVED BY THE BELT Car Wrecked, DOT Family Unhurt

by Ros Kaiser

What do you call it when people walk away without a scratch after the car, traveling 50 mph, hits a deep pothole, turns over three times and lands on its side, totaled?

Lucky, of course. But the automotive safety community calls it "saved by the belt." In this case, belts, because all five occupants, were buckled into three-point belts.

Dr. Donna Smith is a senior analyst for drug enforcement and program compliance in DOT's Office of the Secretary. On March 21, she and her family were en route from



AFTER: The Smith family car.

a church in Richmond, Va., to attend a wedding reception 12 miles away. Donna's husband, Lt. Col. Frederick Smith, a retired Army chaplain, had just conducted the wedding ceremony. The two Smith children, Matthew, 17, a high school senior, and Stephen, 18, an Air Force

Academy Cadet, had served as ushers. The bridegroom is their godfather. Stephen's room-mate, Tom Kulos, also was with them.

It was 4 p.m. on a beautiful, sunny day. The wedding couple was in

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Seaway Opens

Despite a late March "cold snap" along the St. Lawrence River that interrupted the normal spring ice thaw, the St. Lawrence Seaway opened for traffic on schedule, March 30. Canadian Coast Guard ice-breaking assistance helped the Seaway meet the schedule. The first outbound vessel through the Saint Lawrence Seaway in 1992 was the Canadian ship PETER MISENER, loaded with grain for Quebec. The vessel is seen here entering the U.S. Eisenhower Lock.

May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

The theme for this year's Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is "Effectiveness, Empowerment and Enhancement."

The DOT Asian Pacific American Employees Council (DOT APAEC) was formed in 1990 to highlight the contributions of Asian Pacific American employees, provide a forum in which to share their experiences and culture with fellow DOT employees through organized activities and address any DOT-related issues.

The Asian Pacific American is defined as an American whose ancestors were people of Southeast Asia, the Far East, the Indian Subcontinent or the Pacific Islands. This includes Bangladesh, China, India, Japan, the Philippines, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Korea, Pakistan, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Vietnam, Cambodia,

Thailand, Laos and Samoa.

The 1990 census showed that there are seven million Asian Pacific Americans in the U.S., one of the country's fastest growing populations.

A celebration to mark the occasion, with speakers, food, and entertainment, was held

May 6 on the DOT Headquarters Plaza. Other events are scheduled for May 19 at Coast Guard Headquarters (10 a.m. to noon) and May 20 at FAA (11 a.m. to 2 p.m.). For further information on the council or this month's activities, contact Sam Krishnan at 8+202+366-6132.



Safety Belts... continued from page 1

the first car, the Smiths next in their 1991 navy blue Volvo. On her lap, Donna held a crystal bowl filled with 10 pounds of potato salad, her "specialty," that she'd made at the request of the bridegroom. In the cars behind them were the wedding photographer and the rest of the party.

It should have been a 20-minute trip. They were traveling on a four-lane local roadway with a wide, grassy median, past small shopping centers and access streets. The route is precisely the kind of close-to-home road on which, statistically, 50 percent of all serious accidents occur.

The Smith car was traveling around 50 mph, in the left lane. Suddenly the left front wheel got stuck in a deep pothole on the edge of the road. The pothole was about seven to nine inches deep, the result of winter erosion and many layers of resurfacing. The car turned over three times, and landed on its side in the median.

The witness who called the police told them ambulances would be needed, there had to be deaths or injuries.

Miraculously, no one was hurt, not even scratched, bruised or burned by the safety belts which held them all perfectly in place. All the doors were jammed, but the back windshield had popped out, providing an escape route. A minor miracle, the crystal bowl was on the floor unbro-

ken, but the potato salad—was all over everyone and the car.

Fred Smith had tried to turn the wheel, but it all happened so fast he couldn't remember anything after that. Donna kept thinking, "If



Donna R. Smith

we hadn't been next to the median...." Stephen said, "Time stopped, like slow motion. I felt as if I were doing flips under water." Matthew hugged his Dad hard and told him, "The best thing you ever taught us was to buckle up."

What else happened? The wedding photographer videotaped the scene, which is now the "trailer" on the wedding tape. The reception was delayed for only an hour and someone went to buy more potato salad.

Stephen has become an ardent advocate for rear-seat buckle ups. Tom called Donna to ask for a bunch of DOT's 70% by '92 buttons. The insurance adjuster who showed up two days later told them the car was indeed a total wreck and the potato salad smelled terrible.

Happy ending.

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This is your publication, and we value your input. Let us know how we're doing!

If you would like to submit letters, comments or suggestions for articles, please address correspondence to: Editor, DOT Today, OST, Office of Public Affairs, A-20, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590. (202)366-5578; FAX (202)366-3703.

 Please Recycle

Admiral Busey to Leave

Deputy Secretary James B. Busey IV will leave DOT some time this summer to become president and chief executive officer of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association. In announcing Busey's departure, Secretary Card said, "For the past three years at DOT and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and his many years in uniform, Jim has served with great distinction and has been the embodiment of a true public servant."

Presidential Nominations

• President Bush has nominated DOT General Counsel **Arthur J. Rothkopf** to be deputy secretary of the agency, succeeding Admiral Busey.

Before coming to the department, Rothkopf was a partner in the law firm of Hogan and Hartson in Washington, D.C. from 1969-1991, and was an associate there from 1967-69. He also served as associate tax legislative counsel with the Treasury Department from 1963-66.

Rothkopf is a graduate of Lafayette College and Harvard Law School. He is married, has two children and lives in Washington, D.C.

• President Bush has nominated four-star Air Force General **Thomas Richards** to head the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Richards was a member of the presidential commission formed to investigate the December 1988 terrorist bombing of Pan Am Flight 103. He began his military service in 1956, retired in 1990, and has been working as an aviation consultant since then. A native of San Diego, Gen. Richards is married, has three children and lives in Bryan, Texas.

• President Bush has nominated **Michael James Toohey** as assistant secretary of transportation for governmental affairs, succeeding Galen Reser.

Since 1989, Toohey has served as senior Washington representative for Ashland Oil, Inc. Prior to this, he held several key positions with the Republican staff of various committees in the United States House of Representatives.

Toohey is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley. He is married, has three children and resides in Great Falls, Va.

Headquarters Appointments

Stephen T. Hart has been designated deputy assistant secretary for industry affairs and public liaison, reporting to Marion Blakey, assistant secretary for public affairs. Hart comes to DOT from the White House where he had served since 1983. Most recently, he was deputy assistant to the President and director, Office of Legislative Affairs. Prior to that, he was assistant to the President and deputy press secretary. Hart is a graduate of George Washington University.

Robert H. Marsh has been appointed special assistant to the Secretary. He served three terms in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, and was appointed assistant minority whip. Marsh is a graduate of Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, N.Y.

Shelley Longmuir has been named deputy general counsel. From 1989 until the present, she has held various positions at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In 1991 she became counselor to the secretary at HUD as a senior policy and legal advisor in charge of reviewing national housing programs issues. Longmuir graduated magna cum laude from Brown University and received her J.D. from New York University School of Law.

SES Candidate Development Program

The vacancy announcement for the department's next Senior Executive Service (SES) Candidate Development Program will open May 18 and close July 10, 1992. Copies of the vacancy announcement will be available from your personnel office.

Individuals who are currently serving in a GS/GM-15 position or exceptionally well qualified GS/GM-14s or equivalent are eligible to apply. Non-federal applicants must have similar experience at a comparable level. For further details, contact the Office of the Secretary, Human Resources Development Division, M-13, 8+202+366-4122.

America's Oldest Bus Line Goes High Tech

by Dave Frederickson

They were all talking about it. USA Today, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, CNN — even Johnny Carson. Greyhound is getting radar. In the near future, there will be a revolutionary new reason to leave the driving to them.

At the National Press Club in Washington on April 16, Greyhound Lines, Inc. and VORAD Systems, Inc. of San Diego, Calif., announced an agreement to equip Greyhound's 2400-bus fleet with a high-tech, radar-based collision avoidance system. The project will cost about \$5 million and will be the first widespread commercial implementation of such an occupant safety system in the nation. This will also be the first deployment of such large scale dimensions of an Advanced Controls System (ACS) type of Intelligent Vehicle Highway System (IVHS).

Representing the Department of Transportation at the event was Secretary Andrew H. Card Jr., who praised the Greyhound/VORAD agreement, saying, "the partnership being activated here is just the kind of public-private partnership the President is



Secretary Card with Greyhound and VORAD officials.

calling for today...we must develop innovative new technologies to meet the challenges of global competition. New transportation technology is a part of our strategy. Here we have an investment paying off in a practical application in the marketplace." Secretary Card went on to say, "Today, VORAD moves from the laboratory to the streets and highways."

The VORAD technology was developed over the past several years by VORAD Systems, Inc. in partnership with the state of California, the California Institute for Transportation Studies at the University of California, Berkeley and DOT through the Federal Highway Administration. A test program was

carried out by Greyhound with a small fleet of buses in southern California.

According to VORAD president Paul Bouchard, the system will provide drivers with a sufficient early warning to reduce rear-end collisions by up to 60 percent. Greyhound president Frank Schmieder estimates that when fully deployed, VORAD will cut Greyhound's accident rate by as much as 25 percent, saving millions of dollars and protecting the traveling public.

While DOT is not an active partner in the project, FHWA and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) have agreed to develop and manage an evaluation and monitoring program for the system's operation.

Legislative Update

Trucking Deregulation: Secretary Card Testifies Before Congress

In his first congressional appearance since his confirmation, Secretary Card testified before the House Subcommittee on Surface Transportation on trucking deregulation. He said that by ridding ourselves of unnecessary economic regulation we can directly increase the maximum efficiency of our transportation system—"which makes the whole economy more efficient, lowers consumer prices, improves our international competitiveness and thereby increases U.S. jobs." He talked of the success of previous regulatory reforms, which have resulted in an annual savings of an estimated \$15 billion, and expressed a strong commitment to completing the job of eliminating remaining trucking regulation.

On Appropriations:

On April 9, testifying before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Secretary Card presented an overview of the FY 1993 appropriations requests for the department and Deputy Secretary Busey spoke in detail on the various items. On May 21, the Secretary is scheduled to testify before the Senate appropriations Subcommittee on the same subject.

House Transportation Leader Roe Announces Retirement Plans

Rep. Robert A. Roe (D-N.J.), who has served as chairman of the House Public Works and Transportation Committee in this Congress, has announced his intention to retire after his present term. This announcement follows similar ones from four other members of the House who have been influential in transportation matters for many years.

Employee Forum

Travel Tips

There has been a recent "flurry" of activity surrounding new programs and guidance on travel. The following information may come in handy when making future travel plans:

Travel Reimbursement Express Program

Say goodbye to waiting for checks in the mail, wasting time in line at your bank, and worrying about checks being lost or stolen. OST and operating administrations throughout the department have begun implementing a new payment process allowing travelers the option of receiving travel reimbursements directly into their bank accounts. This express program eliminates the use of checks and manual deposits and represents an additional improvement in DOT automated efficiency and customer service. Applications may be obtained from program coordinators of participating modal accounting offices.

New Per Diem Rates

The General Services Administration has announced that maximum per diem rates payable for lodging, meals, and incidental expenses for certain locations within the continental U.S. have



increased. The maximum daily lodging allowance for New York City, for example, jumped \$23, from \$117 to \$140, while DOT regional and field employees traveling to Washington, D.C. can expect a \$13 increase in daily lodging allowances, to \$110. Some new per diem localities have also been added. The new rates apply to travel on or after March 1, 1992. Localities not cited will retain the

current 1991 standard rate of \$40 for lodging and meals and incidental expenses allowances of either \$26 or \$34 in localities identified by GSA as expensive.

Relocation Income Tax Allowance Adjustments

Employees who have made a permanent change-of-station move since 1987 may be eligible to file for an adjustment to their payment. Those who relocated to certain states that do not allow full or partial deductions of moving expenses for federal income tax purposes are eligible. Your servicing finance office can answer questions on whether you qualify and tell you how to file a claim. Adjustment claims must be submitted to the servicing finance office that originally handled your change-of-station travel vouchers.

Frequent Flyer Restrictions

DOT employees are reminded that frequent flyer bonus miles earned during official government travel may be used only for future government travel. If you presently have a personal frequent flyer travel account that includes any type of

promotional credit earned while on government travel, consult with your local travel office about the use of these credits.

Travel Authorizations

Commercial vendors will often ask to see a copy of your official travel authorization prior to providing a government discount on services. To ensure that you receive this benefit, please remember to carry a copy of your travel authorization with you to identify yourself as a government employee on official travel. Some employees who did not have their travel authorizations have had to repurchase tickets at the airport ticket counter for the full fare price, or have even been forced to vacate their seat.

Diners Club Cards

The government Diners Club Card is still DOT's preferred method of payment for official business. Employees automatically receive \$150,000 in travel accident insurance and \$1,250 insurance for the loss, theft or damage of checked and carry-on luggage. Employees who travel on official business two or more times a year are encouraged to apply for the card. For an application and additional information about card benefits, contact your operating administration's Diners Club Card coordinator or your servicing finance office.

DOT Calendar of Events

May
Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

National Fitness Month

National Transportation Week, May 10-15

11 25th Anniversary dinner, DOT Senior Executive Service employees

11-18 Multi-screen transportation video wall, "Moving America," Union Station, Washington, D.C.

12 25th Anniversary Ceremony, exhibits, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., on the National Mall, Washington, D.C.

13 DOT: "The Future Starts Here" Symposium, National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C.

13 National Operation Lifesaver Awareness Day

14 National Technology Initiative Seminar (NTI), Seattle

14-15 Navy League Sea-Air Space Exposition, Sheraton Hotel, Washington, D.C.

14 DOT Volunteer Committee Fundraiser, "The Birthday Bash" II a.m. to 2 p.m., Headquarters Plaza

15 National Defense Transportation Day

15 United States Coast Guard Foundation Awards Dinner, San Francisco

17-20 IVHS American Annual Meeting, sponsored by IVHS America, Newport Beach, Calif., call (202) 857-1202

18-25 Buckle Up! America Week

19-22 Community Transportation Association of America EXPO '92, Kansas City, Mo.

19 National Maritime Day

20 United States Coast Guard Academy Graduation

21 RSPA Hazardous Materials Advisory Committee, Alexandria, Va.

22-25 National Space Society Meeting, Washington, D.C.

27-29 Transportation Research Board Conference on Transportation Data Needs, Irvine, Calif., contact Jim Scott (202) 334-2965

28-29 FAA International Conference on Airplane Ground De-Icing, Reston, Va.

29 National Technology Initiative Seminar (NTI), Pasadena, Calif.

June

3-5 FTA, Central Region Conference, Chicago

Invest in Your Future: Thrift Savings Plan

If you are not contributing to the government's Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), you're missing out on a smart way to invest in your future. TSP is unbeatable in helping employees save for tomorrow's financial independence and security.

This convenient, tax-deferred savings plan offers a choice of three

investment funds to employees covered by the Federal Retirement System (FERS) and the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS). TSP contributions may be made in percentages of pay or a fixed dollar amount each pay period.

If you are covered by

FERS, you may contribute up to 10 percent of your basic pay each pay period. DOT will then

match your contribution dollar for dollar up to three percent of your basic pay, and 50 cents on the dollar for the next two percent of your pay. Eligible FERS employees also

The next TSP open season is May 15-July 31.

receive an extra one percent agency automatic contribution. If you are covered by CSRS, you may contribute up to five percent of your basic pay each pay period. Your investments will not be matched by agency contributions.

For more information, contact the personnel office in your area.