



THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Friday, May 23, 2003

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Special thanks to all the NTSB employees and invited guests who joined me in my formal swearing-in ceremony held on Monday. I want to thank **Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta** who officiated and my family. For those of you who could not attend, I have included my acceptance “poem” (with apologies to any English majors or Shakespearean scholars.)

*We're in a very special place, the NTSB,
a family of 400
who seek to find the key
of what, when, why, and how,
in circumstances dire
because within their hearts
lies a calling higher
to find the truth, to find out why
so many people often die –
a tragedy we cannot abide,
a cost and number still too high
in our skies, rivers, pipelines
and our trains and roads,
we must aggressively pursue safety
throughout all the modes.*

*For the privilege to serve
is my honor and charge.
We will meet the challenges
small and large
to support the people,
with care for their money,
through results and performance
and an outlook sunny
as each day begins;
I thank each of you
and promise my best
in all that I do.*

Ellen G. Engleman



Chairman Engleman, joined by her mother Gayle Engleman Johnson, and step-father, Robert Johnson, is sworn in by Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta.

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for
NTSB Successes

NTSB CONTINUES INVESTIGATION INTO CRASH OF AIR MIDWEST FLIGHT 5481

“Our goal is to achieve safety results, and the NTSB will be aggressive in our pursuit of safety — and in completing this report,” said Chairman Engleman during her closing remarks.

As part of the continuing investigation into the crash of Air Midwest flight 5481 in Charlotte, North Carolina, on January 8, 2003, the NTSB held an en banc public hearing, May 20th and 21st. The five member board interviewed witnesses from the

Federal Aviation Administration; SMART, Inc.; Raytheon Aerospace, LLC; Raytheon Aircraft; the International Association of Machinists; and Air Midwest to discuss FAA Notice 8400.40 Results as well as aircraft maintenance, training, oversight, and surveillance.

The purpose was to develop additional factual information for analysis to determine the probable cause of the accident. The hearing also provided the opportunity for the aviation community and traveling public to see a portion of the investigative



Chairman Engleman, Vice Chairman Rosenker, and Members Goglia, Carmody and Healing listen to witness testimony at the Charlotte, NC en banc hearing.

process, and the dedicated efforts being put forth by investigators from many different organizations to find the cause of this accident.

NTSB ALL HANDS MESSAGES



STATE DEPARTMENT CONTACT — NTSB's international travel contact at the State Department has changed. For assistance with obtaining country clearance please contact Ms. Judy Bridges by e-mail, bridgesjm@state.gov, phone 202-674-4045 or fax 202-647-4324. Additional information can be found on the NTSB Intranet under Foreign Travel.

MEMBER CARMODY TESTIFIES IN SUPPORT OF BOOSTER SEAT LEGISLATION

In support of booster seat legislation and Safety Recommendation H-96-14, **Member Carol Carmody** testified on May 13th before the Louisiana House Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works. The Committee was considering HB 713, legislation that will require children to use child restraints until they are 6-years-old or 60 pounds in weight (although this was changed during the hearing to 6-years-old and 60 pounds). During the hearing, Member Carmody focused primarily on the science supporting the need for booster seats and the importance of legislation in getting people to use them. The bill has been approved by both the Senate and House committees. Floor votes are expected after Memorial Day. A special thank you to **Danielle Roeber** for her help with this testimony.



Member Carmody meets with Danielle Roeber and Elaine Weinstein to prepare for her testimony.

On the Hill...

The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure marked up and reported out the FAA Reauthorization Bill HR 2115.

The bill makes a number of changes in aviation policy and includes an amendment that will give air carriers additional responsibilities with regard to family assistance.



STATE OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Nebraska Boater Education Bill—Nebraska Governor Mike Johanns signed Legislative Bill 305 on May 13th. The law requires that persons from the ages of 14 through 17 must have completed a mandatory education program before boating. Those under 14 cannot legally operate a boat.

Texas Senate Committee Approves Post-Accident Testing Bill—The Senate Criminal Justice Committee unanimously approved H.B. 292, requiring alcohol testing of drivers following serious injury accidents.

Illinois General Assembly Approves Booster Seat Bill—The House approved S.B. 52, mandating the use of booster seats to age 8.

NTSB SUCCESSES

Office of Research and Engineering—**Lyn Donaldson** and **Candy Murphy** developed a “hot topics” intranet based information exchange system to support AS regional investigations.

Office of the Academy—**Peter Knudson** has been detailed as the Academy Communications Manager.

Office of the Managing Director—The Human Resources staff successfully implemented the retroactive pay adjustment for all NTSB employees. Special thanks to **Emily Carroll, Bernie Moffett, Kim Butler-Baylor, Barbara Chriss, Shawn Boddie, Marquee Holmes, and Susan Gor** for their efforts.