



## THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Friday, June 27, 2003

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The NTSB joined members of the aviation community this week to honor a true safety advocate, Robert Baker, former Vice Chairman of American Airlines. Mr. Baker spent much of his life as a leader in the airline industry.

Attending and speaking at the memorial service were Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta; Retired Chairman, President and CEO of American Airlines Robert Crandall; Chairman of Southwest Airlines Herbert Kelleher; Chairman, President and CEO of North American Airlines Dan

McKinnon; and President of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University George Ebbs.

The impact of true leadership extends beyond a job, a title or even a single life. True leadership is a gift to the entire community — and Bob Baker is an example of how one person will make a difference far into the future. So too, the role of the NTSB. Our leadership and commitment to safety is our vision and mission.



*Ellen G. Engleman*

### Rail Safety Issues Lead Visit to Colorado to Promote Safety



Member Goglia and Member Healing met with the Association of American Railroads, in Pueblo, Colorado, to discuss rail safety issues, and with Larry Yohe, Jimmy Owenby, Michele McDonald Beckjord, Marcia McBurnett, Jennifer Kaiser, and Quentin Means from the Central Mountain Regional office.



### NTSB Credited With Recovery of Video Footage from the Space Shuttle Columbia

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration credited the NTSB with the recovery of video footage from several videotapes and film found in the space shuttle Columbia debris. The video footage shows Columbia crew members performing their regular duties as well as images of Earth from space.

## NTSB ALL HANDS MESSAGES



### REMINDERS!

- The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Open Season will end on **June 30th**. All Election Forms (TSP-1) must be received in the HR Division by that time. This includes all TSP open season election transactions entered through the automated employee express system, [www.employeeexpress.gov](http://www.employeeexpress.gov). The next open season will be October 15 through December 31, 2003.
- The Flexible Spending Account (FSA) Program open season is extended through June 27th. Payroll will begin employee deduction allotments in July. The Board agreed to pay the FSA administrative fees on all participants who enroll and participate in the FSA program. Employees who wish to make an election to participate in a health care FSA and/or a dependent care FSA have two options to complete an enrollment: online at [www.FSAFEDS.com](http://www.FSAFEDS.com) or by calling the toll-free number at 1-877-FSAFEDS (372-3337).

If you have additional questions on either of these issues, please contact **Pamela Goins** at ext. 6236 or by email at [goinsp@ntsb.gov](mailto:goinsp@ntsb.gov).

### On the Hill...



The House Transportation Committee is planning to mark up two rail bills, one reauthorizing Amtrak and one providing billions of dollars in federal bonds and loan guarantees for the development of high-speed rail and the repair of freight rail infrastructure.

## NTSB SUCCESSES

**Office of Safety Recommendations and Accomplishments**—**Rick Van Woerkom** has developed a history of the NTSB's list of Most Wanted safety improvements. The history will be available early next week on the NTSB's web site ([www.nts.gov](http://www.nts.gov)) and can be found by navigating to the Most Wanted page and clicking on *Most Wanted History*.

The history includes an overall review of the program and year-by-year summaries of recommendations added to and removed from the list; over 250 safety recommendations have been on the Most Wanted List since its inception. Links are provided that show the actual text of each recommendation along with the issue date, current status, and date of that status for each of the recommendations. Where available, links are provided to the Board's actual letter of recommendation.

## STATE OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

**NTSB Board Members** and staff traveled to Olympia, Washington; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Itasca, Illinois; and Sacramento, California, to support legislation on boater education, hard core drunk drivers and non-conforming buses.

**Primary Safety Belt Enforcement Update** – Four states are still considering primary enforcement legislation. The **Delaware** Senate is considering a House-passed bill for primary seat belt enforcement. Advocates are working to ensure a super majority vote while also working with Senate leadership to not require a super majority vote. In **Ohio**, advocates are working with House and Senate leadership to get a bill introduced. This is a Department of Public Safety priority. The **Rhode Island** bill has passed the Senate, and advocates are working with House leadership to move the bill. In **Wisconsin**, advocates are working to have the bill included in the budget.