



THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Thursday, July 3, 2003

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Happy Fourth of July!

This special holiday reminds us all of the tremendous freedoms and liberties that we enjoy each and everyday. Among those freedoms are the ability to travel throughout this great nation by highway, by rail or plane or boat, literally from "sea to shining sea."

As you travel this weekend, please ensure that a conscious awareness of safety accompanies you and your

family. Buckle up. Don't drink and drive. Be aware of driver distractions and practice what we recommend at the NTSB.

Be an example, not a statistic.

On this summer holiday weekend, many people will enjoy water sports and personal boating. Remind neighbors and friends that personal flotation devices can save their life. And don't forget, drinking and boating do not mix – any more than

drinking and driving. We had over 700 deaths occur in personal boating accidents last year.

Lastly, remember that "Freedom isn't Free." As we celebrate, let us remember the sacrifice and courage that has come before us in order that we can live in this safe and great nation.

Ellen G. Engleman

NTSB AND ILLINOIS MAKE TRANSPORTATION HISTORY

"These three bills underscore the Illinois legislature's dedication to the welfare of their citizens and their understanding of the significant role the legislation will play in protecting everyone on Illinois' roads," said Chairman Engleman.

History was made today as the NTSB saw three of its Most Wanted Safety Improvements signed into law by Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich. The event marks the first time ever that three of the NTSB's Most Wanted recommendations have been

enacted in one year by one state. Senate Bill 50 enacts primary enforcement of seat belt use; Senate Bill 52 requires children less than 8 years of age to use booster seats in automobiles; and Senate Bill 58 restricts novice teen drivers to one teenage passenger for the first 6 months of their license.

To honor this significant achievement in promoting highway safety in the state of Illinois, Chairman Engleman presented safety awards to Governor Blagojevich and Illinois State Senator John Cullerton.



Chuck Hurley and Alan McMillan from the National Safety Council, Chairman Engleman, Senator Obama, Senator and Mrs. Cullerton, Representative Mark Beaubien, Mayor Gruber, Illinois State Police Director Larry Trent, FOP President Street, Sheriff Olson, Representative Chapa LaVia and other dignitaries join Governor Rod Blagojevich as he signs 3 highway safety bills.

NTSB ALL HANDS MESSAGES



Academy Preview—IT'S ALMOST FINISHED!

The new NTSB Academy will be completed at the end of this month. NTSB staff is invited to be among the first to see this exciting new component that will enhance the development of our own staff and lead the way in innovative transportation safety training. Please mark Thursday, August 7th on your calendar for a half day trip to see how this state-of-the-art facility will advance the mission of the Board. Keep an eye out for additional email with the details of the preview.

On the Hill...

The Highway, Coast Guard, Marine and Rail

reauthorization bill is likely to come before the full House after the July 4th recess.



NTSB ACADEMY WELCOMES DR. KUSHNER

Dr. Alan Kushner, Deputy Director of the Office of Research and Engineering, has been asked to coordinate the development of a research program within the NTSB Academy organizational structure. He has enthusiastically accepted the new assignment, and will now carry the additional title of Director of Academy Research Programs. Alan will concentrate on articulating a clear definition of the priorities for a research program, developing the laboratory facilities in the Academy building and establishing collaborations and funding opportunities with other government agencies and laboratories. In the near future, working groups will be established to bring the perspectives from all NTSB Offices into the research planning activities. Chairman Engleman indicated that adding Alan to the team that Julie Beal has already built is an important step in developing the full range of opportunities that our new facility presents.

NTSB SUCCESSES

Office of Highway Safety—Staff completed the HS Accident Investigation Procedures for Investigative Groups/Teams Manual. The manual is now available on the NTSB Intranet.

Office of Aviation Safety—As a result of a presentation, made by **Nora Marshall** on the challenges flight attendants face during emergency situations, several airlines are reviewing their emergency procedures.

Office of Research and Engineering—The RE-50

Academy design team, Operation AIM (Academy Image Marketing), met with the Chairman to discuss the redesign of the Academy Web page, the color and design scheme for printed course and promotional materials, and the development of information products and marketing materials.



The Academy Design team, Ray Smith, Christy Spangler, Wanda Glenn, Candy Murphy, Gina John and Will Skolochenko.

STATE OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

California 15-Passenger Van Legislation—Staff contacted the California Senate Transportation Committee regarding A.B. 626, legislation to prohibit California schools and colleges from purchasing 15-passenger vans. Staff provided background information on both the Safety Board's investigations and Federal regulations and spoke with Assemblywoman Liu's staff about modifying the bill to be more consistent with NTSB recommendations.

Massachusetts General Court Approves Illegal *Per Se*—Massachusetts became the last state in the nation to establish an illegal *per se* blood alcohol standard for drivers with the approval of a 0.08 BAC bill that also includes the *per se* standard. Safety Board representatives have testified on at least three occasions in recent years in behalf of illegal *per se*.