



## THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Friday, May 28, 2004

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

This Memorial Day weekend is a special one with the opening of the new World War II Memorial in Washington DC. This salute to all who served in that global confrontation is well deserved, for these everyday men and women became heroes and saved our world. Our transportation system played a significant role in our success. Our ability to transport troops and supplies by air, sea and land was a key factor in our ability to win that global war. Our national defense highway became the interstate highway system that provides the economic backbone to our commercial success. And so, our transportation system is rooted in both the security as well as the safety of our nation.

Safety is our job. The enactment of 25 legislative acts in Virginia this week which focused on drunk drivers was a major political and policy step towards safety. We estimate that nationally, 6000-8000 lives

could be saved each year if all states would follow our safety recommendations concerning hard core drunk drivers. Our Safety Recommendations and Communications group, along with individual Board members, will continue to pursue these hard core drunk drivers, state by state, legislation by legislation. Each step towards our final goal of safety means another life is saved.

As you travel this Memorial Day --especially on the highways -- remember that we lose over 40,000 people each year in highway accidents -- don't add to that statistic this weekend. Buckle up, put your children in the back seat and when, age appropriate, use car seats or booster seats. Most of all, don't drink and drive.

*Ellen Engleman Conners*

### NTSB Honors Virginia Lawmakers



NTSB Chairman Engleman Conners presents Virginia Governor Mark Warner with a plaque honoring the work of Virginia leaders

NTSB Chairman Ellen Engleman Conners and Chief of Safety Advocacy **Kevin Quinlan** attended a bill signing ceremony in Richmond, Virginia on May 27th to honor the Governor's Task Force to Combat Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and Drugs. Governor Mark R. Warner accepted the award on behalf of the Commonwealth of Virginia for its work in enacting 25 new laws to combat drunk and drug-impaired driving. The ceremony was held on the steps of the Virginia State Capitol.

The bills target hard-core drunk drivers -- drivers who drink excessively and drive with a high blood alcohol concentration (0.15 and above) or have repeat impaired driving offenses. Reducing hard core drinking driving is on the NTSB's Most Wanted List of Safety Improvements for the States.

Sponsors of these bills include Virginia Senators Norment, Reynolds, Rerras, and Stolle, and State Representatives Albo, Athey, Bell, Fralin, Janis, McDonnell, McDougle, Moran, Reese, and Sherwood.

## NTSB ALL HANDS MESSAGES



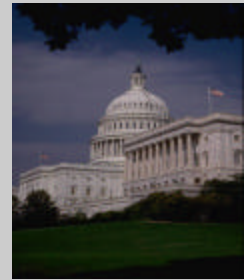
The NTSB Academy will be conducting a course titled Cognitive Interviewing for Accident Investigators on July 13th and 14th. The Course will be taught by Dr. Ron Fisher, an internationally recognized authority on cognitive interviewing and NTSB Human Factors expert Dr. David Mayer.

The course will cover interview techniques that are relevant to any type of accident in which gathering information from participants or witnesses is vital to the investigation. The tuition for the course is \$450 and is open to select participants. More information can be found on the NTSB website at:

[http://www.ntsbt.gov/Academy/CourseInfo/IM401\\_200407.htm](http://www.ntsbt.gov/Academy/CourseInfo/IM401_200407.htm)

### On the Hill...

Chairman Engleman Conners, **David Clark, John Clark and Tom Haueter** met with the staffs of Senator Hutchison, Senator Ensign, and Senator Allen to discuss the NTSB safety recommendations on heavy aircraft used in firefighting. The Chairman will testify next week before the Senate Committee on Commerce regarding the NTSB recommendations.



## NTSB Investigates Colorado Bridge Collapse

The Office of Highway Safety launched a team to investigate the collapse of a girder spanning I-70 in Golden, CO that occurred on May 5th. The 100-foot long, 40-ton girder fell on a Dodge Durango, fatally injuring a family of three and closing the eastbound lanes of I-70. The girder was one of two twin girders being installed to widen the northbound lanes of C-470 over I-70. At about 10:04 in the morning, the temporarily installed girder tipped over, sagged toward the roadway, and struck the Durango.

Team members include **Ken Suydam, Marc Ducote, Dan Walsh, George Black, Larry Yohe, and Larry Jackson**, with ongoing support from the materials lab and other investigators.



The girder collapse on I-70 in Golden, Colorado

## Vice Chairman Judges Maintenance Olympics



NTSB Vice-Chairman Mark Rosenker observes events at the Professional Aircraft Maintenance Association Maintenance Olympics.

**Vice Chairman Mark Rosenker** and Special Assistant **Tom Doyle** traveled to Las Vegas, Nevada last week to attend the Professional Aviation Maintenance Olympics. The event, which is designed to give mechanics an opportunity to demonstrate their skills, was orchestrated by the Professional Aviation Maintenance Association (PAMA) during their 2004 Symposium and Awards Ceremony. The three-person team competition showcased speed, accuracy and expertise in aircraft maintenance.

During the Awards Ceremony, it was announced that **Member John Goglia** has been awarded the PAMA/Flight Safety Foundation Joe Chase Award. This award recognizes outstanding personal achievement in improving the knowledge, safety and dignity of the Aircraft Technician.