



## THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Friday, May 16, 2003

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

This was an important week for the NTSB. On Thursday, the House overwhelmingly supported the NTSB through passage of HR 1527, the NTSB Reauthorization Act of 2003. As passed the bill incorporates the following important factors:

- Funding authorization for 2003 through 2006
- Additional monies for the Emergency Fund and support of the NTSB Academy
- Requirement for the DOT to report on progress concerning NTSB recommendations.

Special thanks to **Brenda Yager**, **Cheryl McCullough** and **Bruce Magladry** for their extra efforts.

Additional team support came from **Ted Lopatkiewicz** and **Paul Schlamm** who arranged C-SPAN coverage of the role of the NTSB that was used during the debate.

During floor debate, many Members of Congress raised their voices in support of the NTSB mission, recognizing the importance of safety in the national transportation system.

As we prepare for the public hearing next week on Air Midwest Flight 5481, which took the lives of 21 people, it is critical to continually re-dedicate ourselves to our mission for safety. We appreciate the actions of Congress this week in support of this mission.



Chairman Engleman discussed NTSB's role on C-SPAN during floor debate of H.R. 1527.

#### Swearing-In Ceremony

Please join us May 19th, at 11am, in the NTSB Board Room for the Swearing-In of Chairman Ellen Engleman by Secretary of Transportation **Norman Mineta**.

### CHAIRMAN VOWS CONTINUED FOCUS ON SAFETY RESULTS

**"RECOMMENDATIONS ARE NOT ENOUGH -- IMPLEMENTATION IS THE KEY,"** said Chairman Engleman. **"WE WANT RESULTS."**

On May 14th, as part of the commemoration of the 15th anniversary of the worst drunk driving crash in U.S. history, Chairman Engleman, vowed that the Safety Board will work aggressively with government and the private sector to reduce the

number of hard-core drinkers on the nation's highways.

"We must be aggressive in our pursuit of safety," said Chairman Engleman. "The Safety Board members and staff will support the states in their efforts to get hard-core drinking drivers off the road. This is one of the top priorities for the Board," she added.

Since 1983, the Board has recommended the use of sobriety checkpoints, which are the key enforcement ingredients in its model hard core drinking driver program. However, a dozen states



Ellen Engleman joined Senators Byron Dorgan, Patty Murray, and Frank Lautenberg, Congresswoman Nita Lowey, and Mothers Against Drunk Driving at the press conference.

are without sobriety checkpoints and others use them infrequently. Additionally, some states do not have administrative license revocation.

## NTSB ALL HANDS MESSAGES



**Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA) Program**— Open season for enrollment in the Flexible Spending Account Program (FSA) begins on May 19 and ends June 20. This is the first opportunity to voluntarily allot pre-tax salary to a Health Care Flexible Spending Account or Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account. For more information, please contact

**Pamela Goins** at 6236 or by email at [goinsp@ntsb.gov](mailto:goinsp@ntsb.gov).

**Buckle Up for Safety** - From May 19 to June 1, law enforcement agencies nationwide are conducting *Click It or Ticket* campaigns in which they will be cracking down on violations of safety belt laws with a special emphasis on teens. As a reminder, Board Order 1302 says: No NTSB employee driving a vehicle on official business shall place the vehicle in motion until sure that everyone has fastened their seat belt properly. Each NTSB employee is also encouraged to assume a personal responsibility for promoting motor vehicle safety on a continuing basis by using and assuring the use of seat belts, or child restraints, when appropriate.

### On the Hill...



**Cheryl McCullough** and **Elaine Weinstein** met with Congressman Vitter to discuss Buckle Up America (BUA) week, which begins on May 19.

### Vice Chairman Kicks-off Safe Boating Week

Vice Chairman **Mark Rosenker** spoke in New York City earlier this week at the annual kick-off of National Safe Boating Council's Safe Boating Week. This year's theme is "Boat Safe, Boat Smart, Wear it!" The event started early in the morning when several children accompanied Snoopy to NBC's Today Show, while wearing their life jackets.



Snoopy, Vice Chairman Rosenker, Captain Spillman and Commissioner Bernadette Castro kick-off safe boating week.

## STATE OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

**Western States Boating Administrators Association (WSBAA)** – **Bill Gossard** discussed the Board's open boating safety recommendations at a conference of the chief boating law administrators from the western states, in Portland, Oregon. WSBAA approved a resolution in support of mandatory personal flotation device use requirements. The resolution asks the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators to develop a model act requiring PFD use by boaters of all ages on all recreational vessels 21 feet and under, while underway.

**Illinois House Passes Booster Seat Hill** – The Illinois House passed a booster seat bill that covers children through age 7 on a 114-1 vote. The House and Senate have approved primary enforcement bills that are identical, except for the effective date.