

## THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER



Friday, October 1, 2004

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

At the Governors' Highway Safety Association conference, our partners in safety from all the states throughout the country shared best practices to achieve highway safety to help lessen the 42,000 highway deaths each year. The NTSB was proud to recognize representatives from New Jersey, Tennessee and the District of Columbia for their successful efforts in closing NTSB recommendations through legislative initiatives and others means of focusing on safety. The NTSB effort is a collaborative one between the NTSB Board members and the staff of the offices of Highway Safety (HS), Research and Engineering (RE) and Safety Recommendations and Communications (SRC). And it

is through our partnerships with the states that we are making great progress in closing these safety recommendations. In fact, of the major highway safety recommendations making up the seven issues on the NTSB's "Most Wanted" list, 173 of the 486 individual recommendations to the states and territories have been closed acceptable.

Special thanks to the NTSB Staff and to our state partners for making safety priority one.

*Ellen Engleman Conners*

### NTSB Recognizes Three at GHSA Awards in Hawaii



Elaine Weinstein, Roberto Rodriguez, Chairman Engleman Conners, Irwin Goldzweig and Kevin Quinlan.

The NTSB recognized the states of New Jersey and Tennessee and the District of Columbia for success in implementing six of the Safety Board's seven "Most Wanted" highway safety improvements. The NTSB's "Most Wanted" list highlights the highway safety improvements that the Board believes will have a significant impact on reducing deaths on the roadways. The Board voted unanimously to approve the current state "Most Wanted" list on September 14th. Chairman Engleman Conners gave the keynote address at the GHSA conference and handed out the certificates. Roberto Rodriguez, Director of the New Jersey Highway Traffic Safety Division, accepted the recognition on behalf of New Jersey and Irwin Goldzweig, Director of Community Health Initiatives, accepted on behalf of Tennessee.

The District of Columbia will receive their recognition at a later date.

The Chairman also met with Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle and Hawaii Transportation Director Rod Haraga to discuss the status of the Board's recommendations to the state of Hawaii. Thanks to the SRC Director **Elaine Weinstein**, Chief of Safety Advocacy **Kevin Quinlan** and the SRC staff for their great work in preparing for these meetings.

## NTSB ALL HANDS MESSAGES

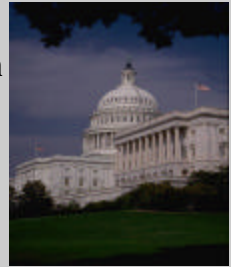


### HAZWOPER Training

The NTSB Academy will conduct Hazardous Waste Operations (HAZWOPER) Training for Accident Investigators from October 5th - 7th. The course will provide participants with the ability to identify methods and procedures for recognizing, evaluating, and controlling hazardous materials releases. All participants will receive OSHA approved HAZWOPER certification at the conclusion of the course. Any NTSB staff member who may work on a site in which he or she could be exposed to hazardous substances, health hazards, or safety hazards is eligible to attend this training.

### On the Hill...

On Thursday, Congress voted to extend current Surface Transportation programs in H.R. 5183 an additional eight months to keep highway, transit and road safety programs going through May 31, 2005. Congress also passed a continuing resolution (CR), H.J.Res. 107, on Thursday, to keep federal departments and agencies functioning through November 20th. This means the NTSB will continue to be funded under FY 2004 monies until the Transportation, Treasury appropriations bill is passed for FY 2005.



## TDA Successfully Trains Alaskan First Responders

Representatives from the NTSB's Office of Transportation Disaster Assistance (TDA) traveled to Alaska and Washington state recently to brief first responders on the roles and duties of the NTSB in the initial aftermath of a transportation accident. The training, which drew an estimated 100 first responders from throughout Alaska, is part of the Initial Airports program. TDA Director **Sharon Bryson**, **Erik Grosf** and **Paul Sledzik** conducted the training for crisis managers from the Anchorage airport and the city of Anchorage, who would potentially work on-scene with NTSB investigators. In addition, the group traveled to Bethel, Alaska to determine the capabilities of the facilities at the Bethel airport, which is used as a divert field for aircraft flying to and from Asia. The meeting included representatives from Alaska Air Lines, the FBI, the Alaska Air National Guard, the Bethel Fire and Police Departments and the Transportation Security Administration.

Enroute to the meetings in Alaska, the team stopped in Seattle to meet with representatives from Alaska Air Lines and Horizon Air Lines to discuss their emergency response plans.

### Gossard Receives Safety Award



Bill Gossard and NASBLA President Fred Messman

**Bill Gossard** (SR) recently received the 2004 President's Award from Fred Messman, President of National Association of State Boating Law Administrators for his efforts in advancing safety in recreational boating.

### Member Hersman Testifies in MI

On September 28th, Member Debbie Hersman testified before the Michigan Senate Transportation Committee on child passenger safety (CPS) legislation, which will require children to be restrained in child safety seats or booster seats unless they weigh more than 80 pounds or are more than 4 feet 9 inches tall. While in Michigan, Member Hersman met with the Speaker of the House, the Senate President Pro Tempore, and several Transportation Committee Members to discuss this and other highway safety issues, such as passenger restrictions for teen drivers and the Board's model program to combat hard core drinking driving.