

TN LAUNCHES DRIVER RECOGNITION CAMPAIGN IN WAKE OF SHOOTING TRAGEDY

The Tennessee Association for Pupil Transportation (TAPT) has begun a campaign to use the attention that has been focused on school bus driver Joyce Gregory, who was shot and killed on March 2, 2005 in Cumberland City, TN, as a catalyst for a project to recognize our nation's school bus drivers. TAPT has enlisted the help of NAPT to seek support from all pupil transportation employees and all state and national educational service organizations to request that the United States Postal Service (USPS) create and issue a postage stamp dedicated to the nation's school bus drivers.

"School bus drivers play a vital and often unappreciated role in our educational system and in the lives of our children," said TAPT Executive Secretary Larry Riggsbee. "Even though the stamp will not honor Joyce Gregory specifically, Joyce's death serves as the inspiration for our request to the USPS."

"All you need to do is write a letter to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC), which recommends which stamps should be printed, requesting they issue a stamp to honor school bus drivers," said Riggsbee. "Ask your friends, relatives and colleagues to also write letters. The more letters CSAC receives, the better the chance we have to get our stamp!"

TAPT has created a new web site – www.schoolbusdriverstamp.com - that contains additional information – including sample letters – about the project. A link to the site is also available on the NAPT web site. NAPT and TAPT are planning to distribute information via the national media as well.

"TAPT asked us if we would be willing to help them with this project but the fact of the matter is we are in awe of their commitment and focus," said Kalmes. "We are proud to work with them and we will do whatever we can to support them."

Kalmes also encouraged the pupil transportation associations in other states to actively support the stamp project.

"Tennessee is leading the charge but they shouldn't have to do this alone," said Kalmes. "The chance for success will be dramatically improved if we all work together."

In related news, NAPT has donated money to a memorial fund that was established to help Gregory's children.

"Members of the school transportation community have been touched by this unprecedented incident," said NAPT President Steve Kalmes. "Our contribution is just a small way for us to let her family, especially her children, know that we care about them."

Kalmes encouraged all NAPT members – individuals, business partners and state associations - to consider making a contribution “In Memory of Joyce Gregory” to:

AmSouth Bank
Attn: Sherry Garner
PO Box 432
Dover, TN 37058
Account # 0052-2288-00

NTSB CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCES MANAGEMENT APPOINTMENTS

National Transportation Safety Board Chairman Ellen Engleman Conners recently announced several key appointment to the agency's management team, including a new Executive Director and Managing Director.

Dan Campbell, who has served as the agency's Managing Director for 5 years, has been named Executive Director, where he will concentrate on planning, policy and transition issues. Mr. Campbell joined the agency as General Counsel in 1990 after 20 years with the Civil Aeronautics Board and the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Joseph Osterman, Director of the Board's Office of Highway Safety, will be the Board's new Managing Director. Mr. Osterman, who has presented workshops at the Annual NAPT Conference & Trade Show on numerous occasions, has been with the NTSB for 19 years. He began his agency career as a Field Highway Accident Investigator and has additionally served the Board as Investigator-in-Charge, Major Investigation Branch Chief, and Highway Division Chief. Before coming to the Board, the Philadelphia native was engaged in law enforcement investigations in Pennsylvania and with the U.S. Army. In his new position, Mr. Osterman will focus on the primary management needs of the agency.

"The appointments announced today reflect the depth of professional talent we are privileged to have at the National Transportation Safety Board," Chairman Engleman Conners said. "Given our agency's responsibilities for transportation safety in all modes, and given the fact that more than 90 percent of U.S. transportation deaths occur on our highways, Mr. Osterman's extensive experience in highway safety will provide an excellent perspective in meeting these challenges."

In other appointments, Bruce Magladry has been named Acting Director of the Office of Highway Safety. Mr. Magladry joined the Board's staff in 1988 as a Human Performance Investigator, working on accidents in all modes of transportation. He became Chief of the Investigations Division of the Office of Highway Safety in 1997. He has most recently been Deputy Director of that office. A graduate of the University of Maryland, Mr. Magladry was with the Baltimore County Police Department, the last 11 years as a detective, before joining the NTSB.

In the Office of Research and Engineering, Joseph Kolly has been named Deputy Director. Dr. Kolly came to the Safety Board in 1998 following 10 years as a research scientist at Calspan/UB Research Center in Buffalo, New York. He started at the Safety Board as a Vehicle Performance Engineer, and later held positions as a Fire and Explosion Investigator, as a National Resource Specialist for Applied Research, as Chief of the Vehicle Performance Division, and most recently as Acting Deputy Director. During his tenure, he has worked on a number of major accident investigations in all modes of transportation. Dr. Kolly earned his BSME and PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the State University of New York in Buffalo.

Karen Lanier has been named Deputy General Counsel. Ms. Lanier has been with the Board since October 1992, serving most recently as an attorney in the General Counsel's office. Before that, she served as Chief of the Writing and Editing Division of the Office of Aviation Safety for 6 years. Among previous NTSB positions, she was staff attorney in General Counsel for 3 years. She is the recipient of the 2001 Managing Director's Award. Before coming to the NTSB, Ms. Lanier was a staff attorney at the FAA. She earned her bachelor's degree at Virginia Tech and her law degree at George Washington University.

All appointments are effective immediately.

WHITE HOUSE CONTINUES AGGRESSIVE PUSH FOR HOMELAND SECURITY TECHNOLOGY

President George W. Bush has proposed spending \$50 billion on homeland security technology in the fiscal 2006 budget, an 8.6 percent increase compared with this year's level. The homeland Security Department would receive a \$41.1 billion budget, a 6.6 percent increase compared with fiscal 2005's appropriation.

Proposed congressional legislation would earmark more than \$11 billion in grants for technology-based initiatives for homeland security-related programs with much of that money targeted to improve transportation security.

In the Rail and Public Transportation Security Act of 2005, for example, Congress proposes to spend \$7.5 billion on rail and public transportation security during the next five years. Most of the funding would be spent "to prevent the seizure of communications and infrastructure" and to respond to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives attacks. The bill also calls for interoperable communications, surveillance systems and employee preparedness and training.

Despite the increases, critics say the money still isn't enough to bolster border or transportation security, especially rail and mass transit systems. There are more than 500 million people, including about 330 million foreign visitors that annually cross the country's borders at ports of entry. Because of the widespread use of rail and mass transit services for travel within the country, the Bush administration has proposed a variety of security enhancements and cargo security upgrades during the next five years, including the use of radiation portal equipment and integrated cargo inspection systems.

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