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Secretary Slater Calls For An All-Out Effort to Raise Seat Belt Use Nationwide

March 13, 2000. Atlanta, Georgia. Secretary Slater, in a keynote address at Lifesavers 2000, the nation's premier traffic safety conference, charged those attending to mount an all-out effort to meet the national goal set by President Clinton to reach 85 percent belt use by the end of 2000.

Reaching 85 percent seat belt use would prevent 4,200 deaths and 102,000 injuries annually and reduce costs associated with highway crashes. The U.S. seat belt use rate now is 70 percent.

In his address, Secretary Slater recalled the national pledge, "Safety is a promise we make and keep together," to improve safety, an outcome of the National Transportation Safety Conference in March 1999. He also sought to renew the partnership from those attending Lifesavers 2000 to achieve the U.S. Department of Transportation's other ambitious safety goals: to reduce child traffic fatalities by 25 percent by 2005; to reduce alcohol-related fatalities to fewer than 11,000 by 2005; and to reduce the number of truck- and bus- related crash fatalities by 50 percent by 2010. ■

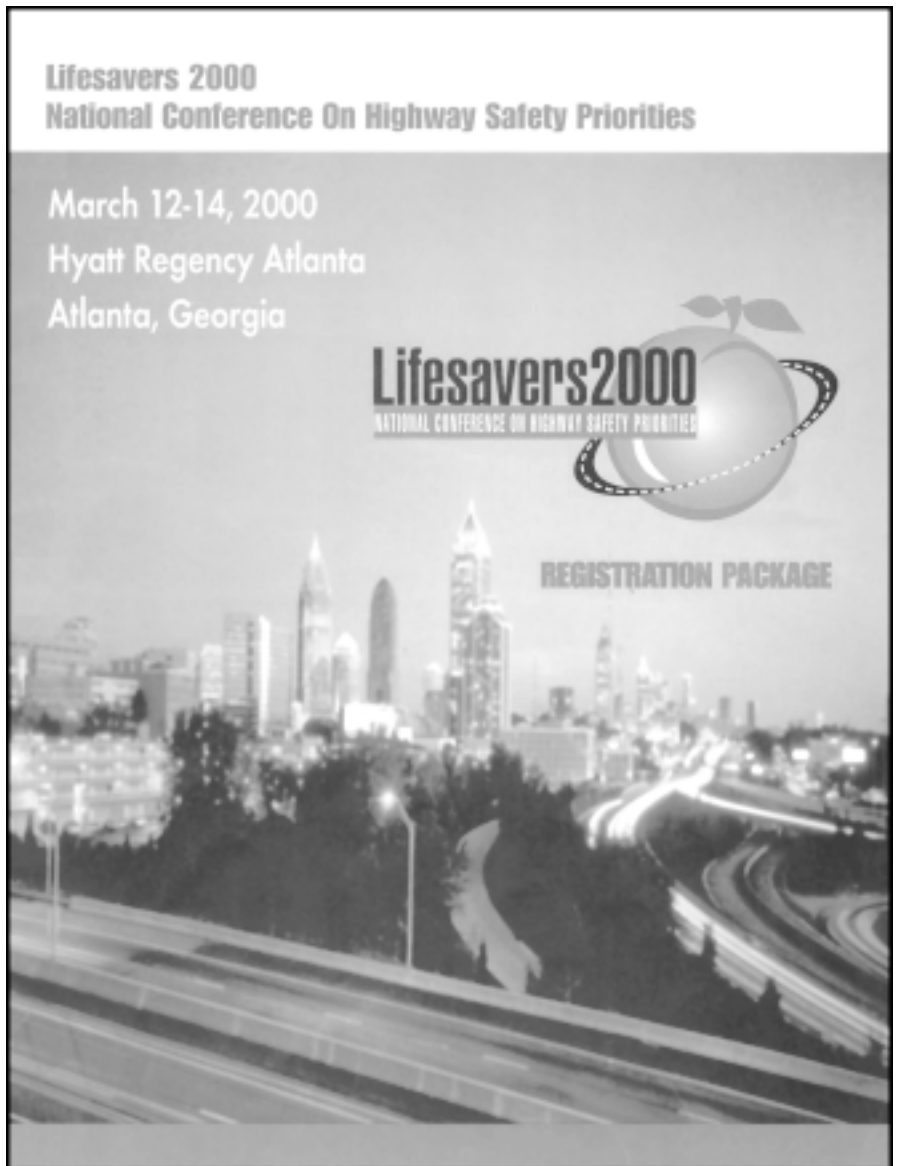


Lifesavers 2000
National Conference On Highway Safety Priorities

March 12-14, 2000
Hyatt Regency Atlanta
Atlanta, Georgia



REGISTRATION PACKAGE



President Proclaims the Month of March “Women’s History Month”



March 23, 2000. NHTSA celebrated Women’s History Month with a two-hour program featuring Acting Administrator Rosalyn Millman and six women leaders in the Department of Transportation. The theme of the program was “An Extraordinary Century for Women—Now, Imagine the Future.” The women each described the challenges of managing a career and home, and provided first-hand suggestions to help women excel in their chosen professions. Pictured above: George Quick, Director of the Office of Civil Rights delivering opening remarks. Featured on the program in addition to Ms. Millman were Rose McMurray, Associate Administrator for Traffic Safety Programs (NHTSA); Helen Hagin, Director, Office of Civil Rights (RSPA); Glenda Tate, Assistant Administrator for Human Resource Management (FAA); Delmas Johnson, Director, Office of Strategic and Program Planning (NHTSA); Rose Alford, Staff Assistant (OST); and Colleen Coggin, Computer Specialist (NHTSA).

Washington Adopts The Most Comprehensive Child Restraint Law in the Nation

March 28, 2000. Olympia, Washington. With a signature by Governor Gary Locke at a bill signing ceremony in Yakima, Washington became the first state to have a booster seat law. Joining the Governor at the bill signing ceremony was Autumn Alexander-Skeen. A major motivating force for the legislation, Skeen lost her 4-year-old son, Anton, in a roll-over collision. The boy was in a standard lap and shoulder belt. In the force of the collision, he was thrown out of the seat belt and ejected from the vehicle. Her tragic story about her personal experience motivated legislators to take action. Under the new law:

- infants will be required to ride in rear-facing infant seats until age one or until they reach 20 lbs;
- children age one to four (or 40 lbs) are required to ride in forward facing child car seats;
- children age four (or 40 lbs) up to age six (or 60 lbs) are required to be in booster seats; and
- children under age 6 are required to ride in the back seat of a vehicle if the vehicle is equipped with a passenger side air bag.

“This is an important day for the state of

Washington, and I commend Washington’s legislators for passing this safety bill and Governor Locke for signing it into law. Anton’s Law, which requires that older children—those up to 60 pounds and six years of age who have outgrown child safety seats—be buckled up in a belt positioning booster seat in the back seat—will help prevent further deaths and serious injuries,” said Secretary Slater.

Booster seats are important because standard seat belts are built for adult bodies. A seat belt can ride up on a child’s stomach, causing severe injuries to the soft, internal organs and increasing the likelihood that the child will suffer severe injuries in a collision. In some cases, toddlers have slipped out of the seat belts during collisions and been ejected or killed.

“Washington has become a model for state booster seat legislation, and I urge other states to follow Washington’s leadership. As a nation we are not taking advantage of the additional margin this safety technology offers—booster seat use is still too low throughout the country. For the sake of safety, we Americans should increase booster seat use,” said Slater. ■

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

What can EMS professionals teach motorists about sustaining the life of a crash victim until EMS arrives? The answer is “First There, First Care” Bystander Care training!

What: *First There, First Care* Bystander Care

Train-the-Trainer Session

For EMS Professionals (EMTs & Firefighters)

Taught by: Dr. Carl Valenziano,
Trauma Surgeon

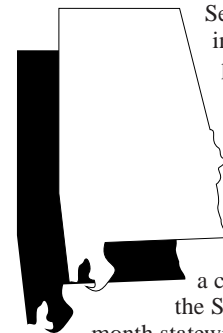
National Bystander Care Leader
and Expert & NHTSA

When: May 15th, 12noon –1pm

NHTSA will be offering a Bystander Care train-the-trainer session at the DOT Headquarters building located at 400 7th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. The one hour session taught by the national leader in bystander care, Dr. Carl Valenziano, will prepare EMS professionals to deliver bystander care training to community groups. Attendees will learn universal strategies for explaining bystander care to local citizens, techniques for teaching the necessary bystander skills and answers to commonly asked questions about bystander care.

To register for the *free* training class, contact: Ms. Debra Kilpatrick, (202) 366-4297 or register via email by sending your name, title, address and office number to: dkilpatrick@nhtsa.dot.gov. We look forward to seeing you there! ■

NHTSA Helps Alabama Increase Seat Belt Use

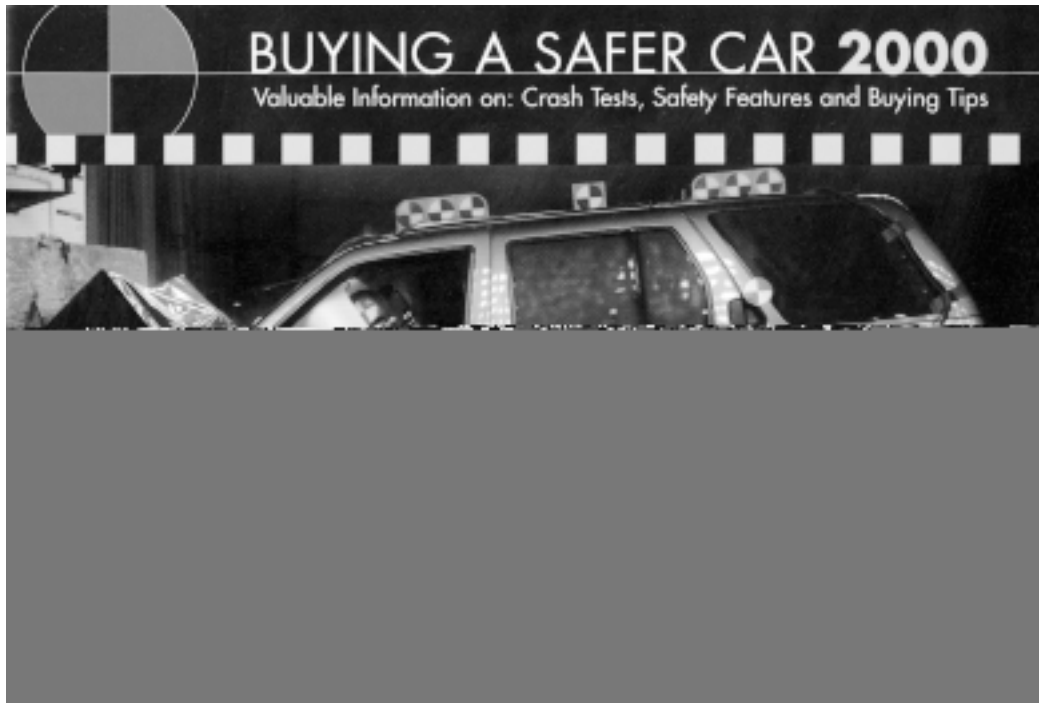


Seat belt use has increased in Alabama from 52 percent in 1998 to 58 percent in 1999, the highest rate ever recorded in the state. After passage of the state’s primary enforcement law last June, NHTSA awarded

a cooperative agreement to the State to conduct a six month statewide public information campaign about the law. The campaign included a series of statewide news briefings, news releases, public service announcements and billboards. ■



Coming Soon: New Radio Safety Public Service Announcements Featuring Championship Auto Racing Team (CART) Drivers



NHTSA has developed seven 15 second radio public service announcements (PSAs) featuring CART race car drivers to promote vehicle safety. The PSAs promote NHTSA's MY 2000 "Buying a Safer Car" and "Buying a Safer Car for Child Passengers" brochures, the Buckle-Up America message (including a Spanish version), and a designated driver message. The PSAs will be played during national CART race broadcasts and by local media at race locations starting in Miami on March 26 and will run throughout the 2000 CART racing season.



Morgan Signs, Inc. of Altoona, PA donates generous outdoor space for NHTSA's and the Ad Council's Drunk Driving Prevention Campaign. This billboard is located at Rt. 144/150 North of Bellefonte.



Recent People Saving People/Teamwork Leadership Challenge Awards

Ellen Martin	NOA	Barbara Rhea	NRD	Cathy Hickey	OPACA
For her teamwork and quality assistance in rolling out the agency's new brochure "Adapting Motor Vehicles for People with Disabilities."		Jyoti Surti	NRD	Kathryn Henry	OPACA
		Carl Pierchala	NRD	Belinda Rawls	OPACA
		Nancy Bondy	NRD	Tina Foley	OPACA
		Ellen Hertz	NRD	For developing a Video News Release (VNR), an educational tool on booster seats, and conducting a press event.	
Karen Scott	NTS	In recognition of outstanding performance for their work on the Early Assessment files and reports for 1999.		Gayle Dalrymple	NPS
Susan McHenry	NTS			Rhonda Dinello	NPS
David Bryson	NTS	Rita Gibbons	NRD	For their leadership, customer service and coordination in working with key partners and constituents to plan the development and dissemination of the agency's first adapted vehicle brochure.	
Jeffrey Michael	NTS	Debbie Woolard	NRD		
William Holden	NTS	Donna Stemski	NRD		
Christine Holdsworth	NTS	Anthony McPherson	NRD		
Maria Maxwell	NTS	In recognition for stepping in on a very short notice for work in association with the advanced air bag final rule.		Larry Hershman	NPP
Paul Yoshida	NTS			For demonstrating exceptional performance in the promotion of <i>Continuous Improvement</i> efforts.	
Garrett Morford	NTS	Barry Eisemann	NRD	Joan Tetrault	NSC
For efforts above and beyond the scope of their normal duties in making sure all TSP mission critical systems were operational during the Y2K testing and evaluation period.		In recognition of outstanding performance for his work on the Early Assessment file for the 1999 FARS.		For program implementation during Child Passenger Safety Week.	
William Snyder	NOA	Stan Feldman	NCC	Ronald Filbert	NSC
Phyllis Alston	NOA	For efficient and timely preparation of testimony for two congressional oversight hearings.		Henry Rockel	Region III
Earleen Hughes	NOA	Shirley Salo	NOA	For their assistance in enabling State and Community Services to maintain a high level of service to the states for the Grant Tracking System.	
Tilda Proctor	NOA	For prompt professional coordination of preparations for two congressional oversight hearings.		Diane C. Krause	Region I
Sharon Vaughn	NCC	Alice Dyson	NOA	For working beyond the call of duty to assure that the agenda, potential speakers, topics and desired outcome of Secretary Slater's goal of communicating the importance of DOT's availability to help build safe, livable communities was achieved.	
Catha Cummings	NTS	For gracious assistance in the preparation of materials for two congressional oversight hearings.		Donna Smith	Region V
Margie Maddox	NTS	Carmen Hayes	NSC	For her leadership as the principal coordinator for the ONE DOT Regional Forum.	
Gloria Beale	NTS	For the timely and courteous collection and preparation of briefing information for two congressional oversight hearings.		Michael Witter	Region V
Earl Hardy	NTS	Joyce Jones	NTS	For his superior work in planning the annual Region V Governor's Representative Conference.	
Brenda Jones	NRD	Janice Norman-White	NTS	Ruth Esteban	Region IX
Barbara Jackson	NSA	Cheryl Schuler	NTS	Rosalind Tianco	Region IX
Carmen Hayes	NSC	Alice Washington	NTS	Jack Champlin	Region IX
Paulette Rucker	NAD	Albert Rockwell	NTS	For efforts on the San Francisco Community Building Forum held February 8, 2000.	
Terrance Webster	NAD	In recognition for displaying exemplary teamwork during the last quarter of calendar year 1999.		Joseph Comella	NAD
Nathaniel Hayes	NAD	Nancy Rubenson	NTS	In recognition for working diligently to ensure the contract package for the purchase of anthropomorphic dummies and dummy parts met the unique needs of the user.	
Beth Williams	NAD	Luis del Rio	NTS		
Derrick Lewis	NAD	For providing quality last minute support to the Associate Administrator for Traffic Safety Programs to prepare her for a press event.			
Samuel Daniel	NPS	Sandi Usher	NTS		
In recognition for the planning and work associated with the African American History Program held on February 23, 2000.		Lori Miller	NTS		
Daniel Rhule	NRD	Cheryl Neverman	NTS		
For an exceptional job in developing and executing a program to examine the feasibility of improving the performance of the fifth percentile crash test dummy.					
Michael Goodman	NRD				
Donna Gilmore	NRD				
Stephen Summers	NRD				
In recognition of outstanding and innovative work in the design and completion of the R&D conference room and multi-use facility.					

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Kathryn Henry
Editor

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"He who has learned to disagree without being disagreeable has discovered the most valuable secret of a diplomat."

—Robert Eastbrook