



Silver Eagles Newsletter

May 2017

Silver Eagles,

We have no new member this month. I missed the Awards Ceremony this year, and I wish that I could tell you why! It was on the calendar – my wife had a mini emergency that caused me an early morning drive to a sale of swimsuits that she uses to teach water aerobics, but I was home early, but the memory of the event was gone until the next day. I'm sorry. Maybe we need a new Silver Eagle chief! Lorenda did send the results. You will find them attached to the bottom of the Newsletter.

New Members: NONE

Board News:

Captain Michael T. Brown of Arnold, Maryland passed away on May 4, 2017.

Changes in NTSB General Counsel's Office (from Lorenda, of course!)

As many of you know, David Tochen, our General Counsel, will be retiring on May 12th after 38 years of federal service. We are extremely fortunate that David chose to share the past six of those years with us here at the NTSB. In Board Meetings, in Directors Reviews, even on-scene during an accident launch -- David's thoughtful advice and calm presence were supports on which we could all rely. I hope you will join me in wishing David the very best in his well-earned retirement.

Earlier this week, we posted the vacancy announcement to begin the formal process of seeking the right candidate to become the Board's next General Counsel. While we conduct this search, I have asked my Special Assistant, Sean Dalton, to step into the role of Acting General Counsel for the agency.

Upon graduation with honors from University of North Carolina School of Law, Sean practiced law for a firm in Raleigh, North Carolina. In 1996 he moved to Washington where he worked on the Hill for ten years, including serving as chief of staff for two U.S. Congressmen. In his eight years at the Board, Sean has had the opportunity to work directly with virtually every modal and support office, whether here at headquarters or in the regions. He's handled more than 150 enforcement appeals and has worked closely with me on more than 100 accident reports and

investigative hearings, including launching to 15 accidents. I believe the Office of the General Counsel will be well-served by his steady guidance as we navigate this period of transition over the coming weeks.

While Sean is detailed to the GC's office, Ben Allen has agreed to fill-in as my Special Assistant. A graduate of Trinity University in San Antonio and the American University Washington College of Law, Ben has been with the Board for four years as an Assistant General Counsel. Since June of last year, Ben has served in a detail as Senior Advisor for Program Quality to the Managing Director.

Please join me in thanking Dave for his service to the NTSB, as well as welcoming Sean and Ben in their acting positions.

Acting Chairman Robert Sumwalt

Fiftieth Reunion News

The NTSB began a year-long commemoration on April 1 of its 50th year of improving transportation safety and saving lives. In the five decades since the NTSB was created, it has investigated thousands of accidents and made more than 14,500 recommendations, of which more than 80 percent have been acted upon favorably.

The NTSB was created April, 1, 1967, as part of the new Department of Transportation. In asking Congress to create a separate accident investigations agency, President Lyndon B. Johnson said the NTSB's sole function "will be the safety of our travelers." In 1974, Congress passed the Independent Safety Board Act and on April 1, 1975, the NTSB became an independent federal agency, fully separating it from the DOT. Now with a staff of 430, the NTSB investigates nearly 1,700 accidents, incidents, and crashes each year--covering all modes of transportation.

Continue to follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, as well as our blog for stories throughout the year about our history. See our timeline of key events and activities, watch our video, and read our blog by Acting Chairman Robert Sumwalt.

This [video](#) was released as part of the NTSB's ongoing commemoration of its 50th anniversary.

VIDEO Nervous? *You can go to www.nts.gov and at the left near the bottom of the page is something called "more videos." You can find the Fifty Year video that way if you are nervous, like me. I did click the link above and saw the video with no ill effects, yet. Sooo, if I did this right you should be able to click on the blue "video" above to watch. - and "NO" neither I nor Lorenda have not heard anything about a celebration in Headquarters... Boo Hoo...*

Member News:

This from **Chris Julius** the day after my April newsletter. "Amy, Sophia and I just came back from Edinburgh yesterday. We were only in Scotland for a few days, so plan to go back for a big loop around the coast (up the east coast, Shetland islands etc, and down the west coast and thru the highlands). Found some good pub cuisine, saw some great history and museums, and had a blast. Was in London for a bit prior to Edinburgh." (*Hey, he can't be the only traveler in our group. Hint!*)

Crystal Thomas in response to the passing of **Mike Brown**: Awe that is so sad to hear. Mike was a great guy and always enjoyed chatting with him while I worked at the Board... Way too young!! He always had great stories to tell!

Cliff Zimmerman echoes **Crystal** - May **Mike** rest in peace. He was a great guy and friend. I remember him telling me stories of his adventures before he came to the board. He always had time to listen and had an upbeat attitude towards everything in life. Things were always going to be OK.

Leon Katcharian said that he plans to attend the Funeral.

Miscellaneous:

Please keep the news coming! Workshops? Volunteer work? Vacations? Please! Please!

Don't forget the Silver Eagle Website: www.precisionwrite.com/SilverEagles.html

Have a Happy... what is in June? We just celebrated Mother's Day... isn't Father's Day in June? – if not, Flag Day! It also happens to be my Sister's birthday.

Lifesaver **Lorenda** sent the following:

NTSB Awards Ceremony

Major Awards

Chairman's Award:

- William Mills – Office of Chief Financial Officer

Managing Director's Award:

- Shamicka Fulson – Office of Managing Director

Dr. John K. Lauber Science and Engineering Award:

- Chihoon Shin – Office of Aviation Safety

Nall-Raskin Public Service Award:

- Kenny Bragg – Office of Highway Safety

Distinguished Investigative Service Award:

- Eric Stolzenberg – Office of Marine Safety
- Joe Gordon – Office of Railroad, Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Investigations
- Frank Zakar – Office of Research and Engineering
- Kevin Renze - Office of Research and Engineering

Distinguished Employee Service Award:

- Stephanie Shaw – Office of Safety Recommendations and Communications

- Wanda Briggs - Office of Chief Information Officer
- Vincent Giuliana – Office of Chief Information Officer
- Sonia Hines – Office of Administration

EEO, Diversity & Inclusion Award

- Leslie McClam – Office of Managing Director

Employee Peer Award:

- Carl Perkins - Office of Chief Information Officer

Presidential Rank Award:

- John DeLisi - Office of Aviation Safety

Special Recognition Awards

Amtrak 188 Investigative Team

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|----------------------|-------------------------|--|---|
| Thomas Barth – HS | Robert Beaton - RPH | Dave Bucher – RPH | Karen Bury (<i>retired</i>) – MD |
| Charles Cates – RE | Katherine Chisom - SRC | Dennis Crider – RE | Tim DePaepe – RPH |
| Gena Evans – RPH | Erik Emery - RE | Mike Flanigon (<i>retired</i>) – RPH | Georgetta Gregory - RPH |
| Max Green – SRC | Cy Gura – RPH | Mike Hamilton – SRC | Mike Hiller – RPH |
| Dan Horak – RE | Steve Jenner – RPH | Cassandra Johnson – RE | Mark Jones - RPH |
| Ronald Kaminski – HS | Elias Kontanis - SRC | Peter Knudson – SRC | Donald Kramer – RE |
| Xiaohu Liu - RE | Stephanie Matonek – SRC | Mary Pat McKay – RE | John O’Callaghan – RE |
| Alice Park – RE | Kristen Poland – RE | Kevin Renze – RE | James Rodriguez (<i>separated</i>) - GC |
| Dana Sanzo – RPH | Christy Spangler – SRC | Deborah Tedford – RPH | Ted Turpin – RPH |

El Faro Data Recorder Ocean Recovery Team

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|----------------------|-----------------------|
| James Anderson – SRC | Eric Stolzenberg – MS |
| Doug Mansell – RE | Adam Tucker - MS |

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| Sean Payne - RE | |
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Mid-Air Collision Animation Team

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| John O'Callaghan- RE | Alice Park - RE |
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Microsoft Office 365 and Collaboration Tool Implementation Team

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|-------------------|-------------------|
| Teddy Brown - CIO | Rahiq Sayed - CIO |
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Jim Henderson