

KDOT Translines

Bureau of Transportation Information

July 2005

Eisenhower State Office Building dedicated

The Dwight D. Eisenhower State Office Building was officially dedicated by Governor Kathleen Sebelius on June 6 during a ceremony that honored Eisenhower, all veterans, and those currently serving in the Armed Forces.

Five World War II veterans from Topeka who served under General Eisenhower in the European Theater were recognized at the event. They are John Bausch, Ronald "Martin" Gray, Charles Hamm, John Hankammer, and Donald Patterson.

President Eisenhower was also acknowledged for his forward transportation thinking and signing the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956



*The Official Dedication of the
Dwight D. Eisenhower State Office Building*

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Secretary Deb Miller speaks at the Dwight D. Eisenhower State Office Building dedication ceremony on June 6. For more photos, please see pages 6 and 7.

KDOT employee killed

KDOT offers its condolences to the family and friends Marvin "Scotty" McDonald III, who was struck and killed while working in Topeka Wednesday, June 1.

McDonald, 24, was killed on a US-75 work site near N.W. 35th Street while performing maintenance duties. McDonald, an Equipment Operator at the Area Four Office in Topeka, was part of a two-man crew that was picking up trash alongside US-75 when the

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Can I accept that gift?

What can, can't be accepted

Twelve current and former state employees were fined in May for violating state ethics guidelines by accepting free meals at two Topeka hotels. Although their fines were small, it brought to light the ethics guidelines to which all state employees must adhere.

The following is a review of the state ethics gift guidelines

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Inside ...

- ◆ TEAM PLANS, HOSTS ITS HEARTLAND CONFERENCE
- ◆ DETERMINATION AND DEDICATION

- ◆ THE HONOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE
- ◆ GROUND BREAKING COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT PLANNED
- ◆ CAN YOU NAME THAT TUNE?



Miller's Time

*By Secretary
Deb Miller*

The honor of public service

When I was very young growing up in Pratt, President John F. Kennedy challenged the nation to “Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country.”

His words energized many Americans – especially younger Americans – to look for ways to serve the public. His most famous forum for public service was the Peace Corps, which was established in 1961.

I thought about Kennedy and his belief in public service this past month as we dedicated our headquarters – the Dwight D. Eisenhower State Office Building on June 6. Photos of the celebration appear on pages 6 and 7 of this issue of *Translines*. Eisenhower’s own commitment to public service set a standard well before Kennedy, who succeeded Ike as president, spoke his famous words.

Early in life Eisenhower committed to a life of public service by enrolling at West Point. His military career culminated with his command of the Allied forces that defeated the Nazis in World War II. Five of the men who were under Eisenhower’s command were special guests at our dedication.

It was both inspiring and moving as I watched each man stand to be introduced and to have his heroics summa-

rized. Especially inspiring was Charles Hamm, who not only served with distinction during the war, he could still fit into the uniform he wore 60 years ago!

These proud men and their fellow warriors of the Greatest Generation were the prominent faces of World War II’s public servants. But make no mistake about it, everyone was a public servant in those desperate days whether they were collecting metal, turning off lights, saving on gasoline or learning to survive on ration cards.

After the war and his retirement from the military, it wasn’t long before Eisenhower was called back to public service, this time as president. He continued to have a dramatic impact on the nation by authorizing the great American interstate system – the largest single public works project in U.S. history.

Although our work as public servants at KDOT may not seem as glorious as that of the men and women who fought in World War II and the nation’s subsequent wars, the work we do is important and vital. And, like the work of soldiers, the jobs some of you have can be dangerous, as we were sadly reminded June 1.

Early that day, Scott McDonald was killed when he was struck by a car while performing maintenance duties just north of Topeka along US-75. Although Scott’s job was a temporary position, he had finally found something he loved, according to his father, and was applying for a permanent job at KDOT. He loved his co-workers, getting to drive the big trucks and proudly showing family and friends his Class A driver’s license.

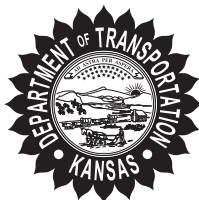
“With KDOT,” Scott’s father wrote in a letter, “he finally found a home.” The full letter and a photo of Scott McDonald appear on page 5.

Scott was proud to be a KDOT employee. And like Scott, I hope that you are proud of what you do, because without a safe and efficient transportation system, the state and nation cannot prosper. And the way we do our jobs and the spirit that we bring to them not only results in value to our own lives, it enriches the lives of Kansas citizens.

I think Scott McDonald believed that and I hope all of you do, too. Thank you for your sense of public service and please take care of yourself and your coworkers.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Calendar of Events

July 4 - State employees off for Independence Day holiday.

July 8 - 9 a.m. Highway Advisory Commission meeting by conference call.

July 12 - 11 a.m. KDOT Employees’ Council Meeting, Third Floor Eisenhower State Office Building.

July 20 - 2 p.m. Construction Bid Letting at the Topeka Capitol Plaza.

Ground-breaking communications project announced

By Steve Swartz

A ground-breaking project that will enhance the ability of first responders to exchange critical information during both crises and routine interactions was announced by Governor Kathleen Sebelius June 1.

The project in District Four is the first step toward statewide deployment of an interoperable communications system. First responders frequently can't talk directly with other emergency service agencies because their radio systems are not compatible. Upgrades to the communications system in Southeast Kansas will enable the region's many first responders to directly communicate with one another.

"It is my hope this seamless communication will give emergency workers the time they need in the early minutes of a crisis to save lives and protect property," Sebelius said at a news conference at Topeka Fire Station Number 5.

Joining the Governor at the conference were Secretary Deb Miller and Kansas Highway Patrol Superintendent Col. William Seck.



Governor Kathleen Sebelius talks with Topeka Police Chief Ed Klumpp and other emergency response agency leaders about the new Kansas Statewide Interoperability Communication System.

The District Four project was one of four initiatives the Governor announced that will improve the communication capabilities of both public and private entities. Other initiatives include:

- ◆ Opening the state's 800 megahertz communications towers, which are operated by KDOT, to first responders and governmental users
- ◆ Leasing 800 megahertz radios and equipment to local first responders
- ◆ Opening the KDOT towers to private businesses for the first time.

The measures were endorsed by the 2004 Legislature in House Bill 2756, which made interoperability a priority for Kansas' ongoing Homeland Security efforts. Interoperability is the capability of first responders to have direct radio communication with one another.

The Highway Patrol and KDOT now operate on an 800 megahertz statewide system, however, most local emergency service agencies are unable to communicate with them because their equipment is incompatible.

"While these initiatives will lead to better communications during disasters and other crises,



Secretary Deb Miller describes KDOT's role as a partner in the implementation of the new Kansas Statewide Interoperability Communication System, which will utilize KDOT's 76 communication towers and be maintained by KDOT staff. Governor Kathleen Sebelius, Colonel William Seck, Superintendent of the Kansas Highway Patrol, and Gene Krase, Administrator of Kansas Emergency Management, are seated behind Miller.

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Members of the ITS Heartland Team pose with Secretary Deb Miller after being recognized as an Example of Excellence.

Team plans, hosts ITS Heartland Conference

By Kim Stich

Hosting a national conference is a huge undertaking from the planning stage to the actual event. Working together to accomplish this goal can involve employees from numerous bureaus.

The ITS Heartland Team was honored as an Example of Excellence for the first quarter of 2005 for their efforts to host the ITS Heartland Conference. Secretary Deb Miller attended the event in Topeka on May 23.

"These KDOT employees did all of the work necessary to put together a very successful ITS Heartland and MOVITE Annual Meeting," said Chief Counsel Sally Howard. "In the past, attendance at this meeting has been between 250-275 people. This year attendance was 380 people."

There was a great deal of work necessary to plan and implement this two and one-half day meeting, Howard said, which took place March 15-17. The committee recruited and organized speakers for 14 different sessions. Other members of the committee created a program outlining the event and signs to help direct attendees to the various sessions, board and business meetings, workshops, and receptions. With record-breaking attendance, the committee also had to address increasing food requirements and other needs throughout the entire conference.

The amount of money raised by sponsorships, \$8,500, was the largest amount ever raised. The number of vendors that attended the meeting was also higher than in the past.

KDOT Employee Recognition PROGRAM

"Having such a successful meeting reflects very positively on the agency in the entire Midwest area," Howard said. "It couldn't have happened without the contribution of all of these KDOT employees."

Members of the ITS Heartland Team include: Barbara Blue, Glenda Brown, Colleen Collette, Mark Clements, Jon Fischer, Leslie Fowler, Mike Floberg, Karen Gilbertson, Rene Hart, Shari Hilliard, Nancy Johnson, Vicky Johnson, Larry Katsbunas, Cheryl Lambrecht, Bret Mathias, Deborah

McCaskill, Marjie Norton, Anita Oliver, Garry Olson, Scott Otipoby, Denise Petet, Steve Rockers, Gelene Savage, Rhonda Seitz, Amy Smith, Kurt Weaverling, and Stan Young.

Do you know of a KDOT group, team, unit, or office that has gone above the call of duty? Then nominate them for the Example of Excellence award. All KDOT employees are encouraged to suggest ideas and can now fill out Form DOT 1204.

Once it is filled out, the nomination is then sent to the selected Division Director, Bureau Chief, District Engineer, Area Engineer, or Subarea Supervisor who can then sign the form and submit the nomination to Transportation Information.

Hard copies of the form are still available by calling Transportation Information at 785-296-3585 and require the signature of one of the supervisors listed above.

The award is given quarterly with nominations for the second quarter due to the Bureau of Transportation by June 30 and nominations for the third quarter due September 30.

KDOT employee

Continued from page 1

crash occurred.

"KDOT is truly saddened by this tragic loss," said Secretary Miller. "We offer our heart-felt condolences to the McDonald family during this difficult time and to the crew that Scott worked with in the Topeka area."

McDonald is survived by his parents Marvin and Shirley and a sister, Jennifer. Memorial contributions may be made to the Special Education Department in care of Topeka School Fund, P.O. Box 5883, Topeka, 66605 or the Topeka Capitol Federal Banks in the name of Marvin Scott McDonald III Memorial Fund.



Scotty McDonald

The last KDOT worker killed at a work site was 7 ½ years ago. A KDOT Engineering Technician was killed in November 1997 at a KDOT construction work zone south of Salina on I-135. There were seven KDOT employees killed at work sites in the 1990s.

The following letter was sent to KDOT by Scott's dad in memory of his son.

My Son Scotty *By Dad*

He was a normal kid, getting into trouble and driving his parents crazy. Through it all, though, we always loved and helped him. Scotty had many jobs trying to find the 'right' one. With KDOT he finally found a HOME.

He loved working with all of the fellows at the shops. He loved getting to drive the big 'Tonka trucks'. One of his proudest moments was getting his CLASS A license. He took it around and showed all of his family and friends that license. We want everyone to remember the joy and caring that Scotty brought to everyone. His friends were too numerous to count. We had over 500 signatures in the guest book and it was so crowded there that not everyone was able to sign in.

The love and caring that these people reflected back to us showed what a truly special person Scotty was. Again we cannot begin to express our thanks to the KDOT family for making Scotty and we part of your lives.

We have set up a memorial to assist the girl that Scotty was dating and her children. The family wishes everyone to know that our love, thoughts and prayers are with all of the members of KDOT.

Remember that Scotty will be there watching and helping each of you.

Need for continuity stressed at quarterly P2 board meeting

Improving relationships between KDOT and local partners is at the heart of the Partnership Project. And many of those partners say they are seeing positive results as P2 subteams achieve their priorities.

The focus now is to make the initiatives that were started during the P2 process an on-going part of how we do business.

"With many of our priority phases being completed, we've now entered into an on-going mode," Julie Lorenz, director of the Division of Public Affairs, told the P2 Board of Directors at its June 1 quarterly meeting.



Members of the board heard progress reports on each of the top priorities. Several priority champions reported significant progress had been made. Mike Crow, director of the Division of Operations, reported that the process of updating the position description for Area Engineers has been completed. Also reporting 100 percent completion was Ron Seitz, assistant bureau chief for Local Projects, who said the S.O.M. had been completed and was signed by Secretary Deb Miller on May 31. A synopsis of all priority progress reports, along with the percent of completion, can be found on KDOT's intranet site.

The meeting concluded with some final thoughts from board members, who again stressed that the priorities become an on-going effort by the agency.

"We need to embrace that we are a learning organization that needs to evolve in order to become a better institution. These priorities are a good way to ensure that," said Chuck Elsea, board member and Highway Advisory Commissioner.



The Topeka High School Marine ROTC presents the nation's colors at the beginning of the Dwight D. Eisenhower State Office Building dedication ceremony on June 6.



At left, KDOT employee Larry Rohr looks at an informational display about President Eisenhower during the reception. Above, the Capital City Chorus sings the National Anthem.

Dedication

Continued from page 1

- the beginning of the Interstate highway system in the United States.

"There's no question that Eisenhower had a key role in transportation as the architect of the Interstate highway system," said Governor Sebelius. "To have our Department of Transportation honor him day in and day out by their work in this building I think is a very fitting tribute."

Secretary Deb Miller served as the emcee and recognized the many people

who helped make the move to the new building possible as well as those who assisted with the ceremony. Dan Holt, Director of the Eisenhower Library and Museum, and Jack Fowler, Chairman of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs, also spoke. Merrill Atwater, President Eisenhower's great-grandson, was unable to attend due to a last-minute scheduling conflict, but he sent a letter that was read:

"The 61st anniversary of D-Day is an especially fitting occasion to celebrate Dwight Eisenhower's accomplishments and contributions to Kansas

as well as to the nation. This is a great honor to bestow upon him.

I know my great-grandfather would have appreciated having a Kansas state office building named for him - but he would have preferred to focus the attention on all the veterans who are here today.

At this time I would like to thank you on behalf of the entire Eisenhower family who are here in spirit if not in person."

The new state office building is home to KDOT, the Kansas State Gaming Agency, and the Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission. **-K.S.**

EISENHOWER STATE OFFICE BUILDING DEDICATION

June 6, 2005

Interstate expert praises Eisenhower, Department

"The Interstate System has brought us together, made us a superpower and the envy of the world. It is the most remarkable public works project in the world. And it is all because of your hometown boy, Dwight Eisenhower," Dan McNichol said.

McNichol, best-selling author, Interstate expert, and Hudson car lover spoke on June 6 to KDOT employees about the influences that led

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Dan McNichol, nationally-recognized expert on the U.S. Interstate system, spoke at the afternoon reception on his traveling experiences.



At left, Governor Kathleen Sebelius poses with World War II veteran Charles Hamm after the ceremony. Hamm is dressed in the same uniform he wore 60 years ago. Above, Jack Fowler recognizes five World War II veterans from Topeka during the ceremony.



The 35th Infantry Division Band from Olathe (above) and the Topeka High School Marine ROTC Silent Drill Team (right) performed before the ceremony began.



Determination and dedication

By Priscilla Petersen

District Four Public Affairs Manager

A man on a mission, he was the ideal person for the undertaking. Persistent, determined, cheerful, outgoing and dauntless as he charged from task to task, Ray King would triumph in his endeavor.

The mission: Place two signs proclaiming the US-400 bypass north of Parsons as the "930th Ordnance Ammunition Company Highway." The Legislature had given its approval during the 2004 session. Last September, after consulting with fellow Korean War veterans in the 930th, Ray and friend Gerald "Bow" Bowman paid a visit to our district engineer to discuss sign size, lettering and costs.

Ray, age 79, was in a rush. His wife had died the previous spring, and his signing mission might well have kept him lively and hopeful. The specifications were agreed on at the district level, so to Ray's way of thinking the next stop was Topeka. He had procured enough donations to cover the cost of both signs, and he planned to sign the check in Secretary Miller's presence and then present it to her.

Ray and Bow did indeed make the trek to the Secretary's office, with Bow's son serving as chauffeur. A slight hitch developed when neither gentleman could remember the exact figure for the cost of the signs, but this was quickly resolved. The check having changed hands, Ray brought out numerous photos and clippings to share with Secretary Miller and declared that he had "all day" to spend with her. This was not to be as the Secretary graciously indicated that she had to leave for another appointment. Ray and Bow settled for a mini tour of the Eisenhower State Office Building and lunch with the District Four Public Affairs Manager and District Secretary.

The 930th signs arrived and were posted late in October, with the first one going up on the blustery western section of the Parsons bypass. Ray, Bow and four other 930th members were on hand, along with photographers from three area newspapers. A brief moment of panic ensued when Ray noticed that the company's location and dates of service – Korea from 1950 to 1952 – weren't included and exclaimed,

"That's not right!" to the KDOT crew members hoisting the sign. Noting the confused expressions and hesitation, I mustered what little authority I had to tell Ray that we had never agreed to include dates on the sign (we included them later, to everyone's satisfaction). The sign was erected, photos were taken, and we adjourned for coffee at the travel plaza.

The next time I met with Ray he was planning the grandest day of all – the dedication. He told me of the invitations that were being sent and the notables on the list, the souvenirs being crafted for each special friend, and the donations pouring in to help defray meal costs. The day was set – December 7, Pearl Harbor Day, at the Parsons VFW. The affair went off smoothly and joyfully, with remaining members of the 930th savoring the reunion. Some had come from a great distance. Some got around more slowly than others, but all were honored and delighted to be spending time together. Lunch was served and the crowd lingered. As I left the VFW, it appeared as if the veterans were settling in to reminisce for the rest of the afternoon.

After that I saw Ray once more, when he and a female companion stopped at the district office during the Christmas holidays. He was his upbeat and friendly self, expressing his gratitude for the umpteenth time to all who helped with the signing project. And then after the first of the year, he telephoned again, sounding a bit weary. He told me he had been driving around the region and had recently visited a state lake. He was planning to travel as he was able and was going to get along as best he could. I wished Ray well and wondered if we would ever talk again.

As the months passed I forgot about Ray and the 930th ... until the Friday evening of June 10. On that Friday, suddenly, I found myself wondering how Ray was doing. Did he travel as he hoped? How was he feeling? They were fleeting questions ... something must have made me think about Ray.

A day and a half later in the Independence Sunday *Reporter* I read that Ray King, 80, of Cherryvale, Kansas, had died Saturday at the heart hospital in Wichita. Final mission accomplished.

Ray was a true communicator – always promoting, always keeping in touch to ensure that KDOT and the 930th were on the same page. Perhaps he decided to send me one last telepathic message before he passed on. He certainly possessed the resolve to make such an effort. What I know for sure is that even though he is no longer among us, his signs will stand proudly along US-400 for many years to come.

Communication: A Key to Success



Kansas Department
of Transportation

Ethics

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that went into effect July 1, 2000.

Kansas law prohibits any state employee from accepting or requesting meals, gifts, entertainment, and travel with a few exceptions.

WHAT YOU CANNOT DO

As a general rule, you are prohibited from soliciting or accepting free or discounted meals from a source outside state government.

Exceptions to the meal rule are:

- ◆ Meals motivated by a personal or family relationship, or provided at events which are widely attended by the public.
- ◆ Beverages and snack foods not offered as part of a meal.
- ◆ Meals provided at public events which you attend in your state capacity.
- ◆ Meals provided to you when it is obvious the meal is not being provided

because of your state position.

◆ As a state employee, you are prohibited from soliciting or accepting any gift because of your official position. This includes, but is not limited to pens, pencils, mugs, and flowers.

◆ You may not designate a friend, family member, or entity (for example, a charity) to receive a gift that you cannot receive.

Exceptions to the gift rule are:

- ◆ Tokens of appreciation, souvenirs, or other gifts valued at less than \$40 given at ceremonies or public functions in your capacity as a state employee.
- ◆ Gifts from relatives or personal friends.
- ◆ Gifts accepted on behalf of the state.

◆ You are prohibited from accepting gifts in the form of entertainment. Entertainment includes free or discounted tickets or passes to events such as plays, concerts, games, golf, hunting, fishing,

and other recreational activities.

◆ You may not receive discounted or complimentary registration fees to attend conferences and seminars from any person or company because of your official position.

◆ Travel and/or lodging provided to you by any person or company. An exception to this travel expense rule exists when the state agency would be willing to pay your expenses for travel, lodging, and related expenses.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

The following can be accepted without violating the law:

- ◆ Gifts given to you by someone based on a personal relationship totally unrelated to your state duties.
- ◆ Soft drinks, coffee, or snack foods not offered as part of a meal.
- ◆ Plaques presented in recognition of your state service; or awards and plaques presented in recognition of service to the community, etc.
- ◆ Prizes given in truly random drawings.
- ◆ Rebates, discounts or promotional items available to any citizen or to all state employees.

For more details, visit the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission web site <http://www.accesskansas.org/ethics/giftguide.htm> or call 785-296-4219.

Assisting with clean-up efforts



Jim Stegman, Equipment Operator, Bucklin, assists with clean-up efforts in Fowler the day after a severe thunderstorm and tornado struck the Meade County town, damaging the high school and downing power lines and trees. KDOT crews from Cimarron, Dodge City, and Bucklin assisted the townspeople, hauling away more than 120 truckloads of tree branches and other debris. Reports indicate that four tornadoes swept across Meade County on June 9.

Labor pains cut golf tournament short

Karen Peterson, Engineering Associate III, and her husband, Perry, were expecting their first child at the end of June. But labor pains while the couple was attending the Bayer Advantage Classic golf tournament in Overland Park on June 12 sent Karen to the hospital early.

It also started raining as they were leaving the golf course so the tournament was stopped as well.

She delivered a 6-pound, 11-ounce baby girl at 8:46 p.m. that evening in Kansas City and named her Annika. They liked that name, and it helped that there was a pro golfer named that too, Perry said.

The couple enjoys attending golf tournaments and plan to go to more in the future, "but not if she's pregnant again," Perry said.

Fun Facts and Trivia

Can you name that tune?

So you're a music buff and you work for the Department of Transportation. How well do you know your highway/road songs? Try matching the following lyrics with the song titles and artists. The answers are on page 12.

1. Ventura highway in the sunshine
Where the days are longer
The nights are stronger than moonshine
2. Darlin', you'll always be mine
I'll never treat you unkind
But a haunting melody
Keeps comin' back to me
Where is the highway tonight?
3. Got those highway blues, can't you hear my motor runnin'
Flyin' down the road with my foot on the floor
All the way in town they can hear me comin'
4. I was raised off of old Route 3
Out past where the blacktop ends
That's where I first saw Mary
On the roadside pickin' blackberries
5. Everyday is a winding road
I get a little bit closer
Everyday is a faded sign
I get a little bit closer to feeling fine
6. She was a princess, queen of the highway
Sign on the road said "Take us to Madre"
7. I love it and I need it
I seed it
Eight cylinders all mine
Alright hold on tight
I'm a highway star
8. Working on the highway,
Laying down the blacktop
Working on the highway,
All day long I don't stop
9. On the road again,
Just can't wait to get on the road again
The life I love is makin' music with my friends
And I can't wait to get on the road again
10. If you see a faded sign by the side of the road that says
15 miles to the...love shack! Love shack yeah
I'm headin' down the Atlanta highway, lookin' for the love getaway

Communication

Continued from page 3

they also will make a difference every single day," said Miller, who noted that most agencies routinely need to talk with their counterparts in other jurisdictions.

In the past, cost has prevented many agencies from upgrading their equipment to the more functional 800 megahertz system. The lease program will make that upgrade a possibility.

Private businesses, for the first time, will have the option of leasing space

on the state towers. This will allow the state to capture revenue that can be used to improve public communication. Access by non-public users will be allowed whenever feasible.

The District Four project should be operational by July 2006. It will cost approximately \$16 million, which will come from one-time Federal Safety Funds and Homeland Security funds, and the redirection of KDOT communication funds. All first responders in the project will have interoperability, regardless of the radio frequency on which they operate.

Dear Editor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Deb Miller and Staff,

Today I would like to thank you for the good roads in Kansas. I have traveled through 48 states and came to the conclusion, that none of them has as good roads as Kansas. I am always glad to come home.

One just has to go across the state line to the north or south and you can tell the difference even with your eyes closed.

Thank you again. I am gladly paying Kansas fuel tax, if it gets put to such good use.

Please keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
Ralf Meister

Welcome new KDOT employees!

Headquarters

Benjamin Abbo, Engineering Technician, Materials and Research
Adam Harris, Installation Service Technician I, Construction and Maintenance

Lisa Henry, Administrative Assistant, Materials and Research
Kristina Pyle, Engineering Associate I, Traffic Engineering

Julie Torkelson, Accountant I, Topeka

District Two

Tiffany Avery, Administrative Assistant, Clay Center

District Four

David Owings, Engineering Technician Specialist, Independence
The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies information for new hires to Translines.

Kudos

to KDOT employees

KDOT received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the FY 2004 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). This is the 17th consecutive year that the Department has received this award.

Retirees

The following employees will officially retire from KDOT on July 1.

Headquarters

James R. Emery Jr., Engineering Technician Specialist in Right of Way – 31 years of state service

Dennis R. Estes, Engineering Technician Specialist at Topeka – 40 years of state service

James E. Howard, Public Service Administrator – 22 years of state service

District One

Patricia A. Barnett, Administrative Assistant at Olathe – 31 years of state service

Cecil F. Jeffrey, Equipment Operator Senior at Atchison – 26 ½ years of state service

Lyman L. Miller, Engineering Technician Specialist at Bonner Springs – 44 years of state service

District Four

Charles W. Mallams, Equipment Operator at Columbus – 27 years of state service

Kenneth L. White, Engineering Technician Senior at Pittsburg – 40 years of state service

District Five

Robert G. Kuhn, Engineering Technician Specialist at Hutchinson – 45 years of state service

District Six

Darrell E. Bilyeu, Equipment Operator at Coldwater – 25 years of state service

McNichol

Continued from page 7

President Eisenhower to develop the Interstate System. McNichol also talked about the enhancements the Interstate System has undergone since Eisenhower, a subject he learned about first hand on a 12,000-mile road trip across the United States in a 1951 Hudson. McNichol was promoting his book, "The Roads that Built America: The Incredible Story of the U.S. Interstate System."

McNichol said Eisenhower's interest in a national highway system came in 1919 while participating on the first military convoy across the United States.

Eisenhower's understanding of the power and importance of roads continued during his service in WWII, McNichol said. He said that bulldozers and equipment used to build roads were among the first things on the beach during the invasion on Normandy.

"Eisenhower understood the importance of roads, like an admiral understands the ocean," McNichol said.

Experiencing Germany's Autobahn system during WWII was also a factor which led President Eisenhower to sign legislation that would create the Interstate System on June 29, 1956, McNichol said.

The importance of the legislation was best illustrated after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States. McNichol said that when all the planes were grounded that day, trucks were able to transport medical supplies to hospitals because of the Interstate System.

"It was the Interstate System that allowed us to persevere through this difficult time, he said. "I can't imagine what would happen if it were destroyed."

McNichol loved traveling across the United States in the 1951 Hudson because he was able to see some of the greatest engineering feats in the country first hand, such as traveling through the Eisenhower Tunnel across the Continental Divide.

McNichol also enjoyed the response he received from Americans to his 1951 Hudson. He bought the Hudson on eBay specifically for the trip; but it broke down prior to the trip. Fortunately, a fellow member of the Hudson Club, which McNichol had just recently joined, offered to loan McNichol one of his Hudsons.

Much was learned on the trip, but McNichol said there is one thing KDOT employees should know about the public.

"People really appreciate what you do," he said. "Americans love their roads."

M I L E S T O N E S

KDOT salutes its employees celebrating anniversaries in June

10 YEARS

Marc Anderson Topeka
Ray Boller Topeka
Paul Buckle Pittsburg
Edward Cantwell Wichita
David Church Topeka
Steve Colgrove Kansas City
John Lauer Topeka
William McCoy Sedan
Ernie Miller Topeka
Daniel Ochs III Hutchinson
Carolyn Price Hutchinson
Susan Riley Chanute

This information is compiled by each Office, Bureau, Division, and District.

20 YEARS

Jerry Beasley Hutchinson
James Burns Chanute
Robyn Dudney Topeka
Gary Christensen Topeka
Lauren Gonzales Topeka

30 YEARS

Mitchell Favinger Smith Center
Allan Fisher Garden City
Ronald Macari Chanute
Samuel Wiruth Belleville

40 YEARS

Richard Hamit Topeka
Gary Shearer Norton

Promotions/Transfers

Headquarters

Christopher Beightel, Professional Civil Engineer II, Materials and Research

Allan Davidson, Human Resource Professional III, Personnel

Candace Davis, Project Coordinator, Personnel Services

Gregory Morgan, Environmental Scientist II, Design

Mark Krentz, Professional Civil Engineer I, Construction and Maintenance

Steven Park, Information Technology Consultant III, Operations

Gloria Pontoius, Engineering Technician, Materials and Research

Glen Scott, Professional Civil Engineer I, Design

Scott Swanson, Staff Development Specialist II, Personnel

District One – Northeast

Dan Scherschligt, Professional Civil Engineer II, Topeka

The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies information for promotions/transfers to Translines.

District Two – Northcentral

Doug Thompson, Engineering Technician Senior, Salina

Claudette Noble, Engineering Technician Senior, Belleville

District Three - Northwest

Lydia Annon, Public Service Administrator III, Norton

Brent Terry, Engineering Technician Specialist, Atwood

District Four – Southeast

Kirby Alexander, Equipment Operator Specialist, Yates Center

David Ross, Equipment Operator Specialist, Pittsburg

District Five– Southcentral

Christopher Byrd, Engineering Associate III, Wichita

Matthew Winzer, Engineering Associate I, El Dorado

Miller recognized for support of military

Secretary Deb Miller and KDOT have been honored for support of the men and women of our armed forces.

The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve presented Miller a certificate and a letter from Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. Rumsfeld expressed his gratitude and appreciation on behalf of the United States government for Miller's outstanding patriotism and support of citizen soldiers.

"Her support allows us to go serve our country and have no fear of returning to home and not having a job," said Kirk Meyer, who nominated and presented Miller the certificate. Meyer is KANROAD administrator.

"I just wanted her to know that service members who work for an organization like KDOT are lucky and do appreciate the support. It is just one less thing we have to worry about."

Trivia Answers

1. Ventura Highway - America
2. Where is the Highway Tonight? - Neil Young
3. Rockin' Down the Highway – Doobie Brothers
4. Red Dirt Road – Brooks and Dunn
5. Every Day is a Winding Road – Sheryl Crow
6. Queen of the Highway – Doors
7. Highway Star – Deep Purple
8. Working on the Highway – Bruce Springsteen
9. On the Road Again – Willie Nelson
10. Love Shack – B-52's

Kansas Department of Transportation

Bureau of Transportation Information
Eisenhower State Office Building
700 SW Harrison, Second Floor, West
Topeka, KS 66603-3754

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