

Winter  
2013



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**Our Supporters Keep RSA Going**

Dear Friends:

Our winter newsletter is always a special one for us. In it, we get to publicly thank the many friends of Road Safe America whose donations keep our efforts alive. Our work is managed on a very conservative financial scale; but travel, communication and research cost money. Thank you for providing the resources for us to continue!

In the next few weeks, Steve will be starting his new role as Chairman of the Motor Carrier Safety Advisory Committee (MCSAC). MCSAC's work, advising the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, helps to assure that their resources are used efficiently and effectively. In early February, Steve will attend meetings in Washington with both elected officials and appointed regulators. A key meeting will be with The Honorable David Strickland, Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Administration. Some of the important regulations Road Safe America supports come through his office. Interestingly, Administrator Strickland is an Atlanta native and graduate of Marist Schools.

In fact one of our top priorities, the mandated use of speed limiters on heavy commercial vehicles, is scheduled for rulemaking in May of this year. We will soon be calling on Road Safe America supporters to help by making a public comment on the DOT website and to contact their representatives in Washington to ensure that this rule goes forward. We have learned that legislators and regulators do listen to large numbers of concerned American citizens and your voice at this time will have an impact.

We are proud of RSA's recent achievements in affecting safety legislation in Washington. It is a key component of our mission. Thank you again for the financial support and in advance for your advocacy.

With heartfelt gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan &amp; Steve".

Susan and Steve Owings

**New Board Members Join Road Safe America**



**Robert F. (Bob) Dallas**

RSA first met Bob Dallas when he served as the Director of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety during Governor Sonny Perdue's two terms of office. As part of his service to the State in the Perdue Administration, Bob was closely involved with legislators and other leaders in the development of the transportation policy for the State of Georgia and worked closely with state and local leaders regarding implementing local transportation and mobility projects.

Bob has since returned to practicing law in the areas of commercial litigation, bankruptcy, labor and employment, transportation regulation, and governmental affairs.



**W. Thomas Worthy**

A Washington & Lee University graduate with experience "on the hill" in Washington, Thomas earned his law degree in 2010 from the University of Virginia and practiced law in Birmingham, Alabama. Governor Nathan Deal named Thomas as deputy executive counsel where he serves as a public safety adviser.

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## **Steve Owings Becomes First Safety Advocate to Chair Federal Motor Carrier Safety Advisory Committee**

Road Safe America co-founder, Steve Owings, has been appointed chairman of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) Motor Carrier Safety Advisory Committee (MCSAC), becoming the first safety advocate to lead the panel advising federal officials on motor carrier safety policy.

"Steve Owings' personal passion and proven safety leadership make him a fitting choice as the next chairman of the MCSAC," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "I hope his work will inspire the advisory committee's diverse stakeholders as they focus on their mission—safer roadways for drivers and occupants of trucks, buses, and passenger vehicles."

"I am honored by the opportunity to serve in this important role and to help our nation's leaders de-

velop rational and effective policies that will save lives on our highways," said Owings, of Atlanta. His son, Cullum Owings, was killed in a 2002 crash when his car—stopped in an interstate traffic jam—was crushed from behind by a tractor trailer truck going 7 mph over the posted speed limit while using cruise control.

"Out of his own family's tragedy, Steve Owings has devoted himself with great courage to promoting common sense safety standards for commercial motor vehicles," said FMCSA Administrator Anne Ferro. "Through Steve's years of service on the advisory committee and his focus on key issues like speed limiters and fatigued driving, he has already helped us raise the safety bar. I know he will lead the MCSAC well as its new chairman."

Established by the Secretary of Transportation in 2006, the MCSAC provides advice and recommendations to the FMCSA Administrator on motor carrier safety programs and motor carrier safety regulations. The panel's membership is balanced, comprised of 19 experts from the bus and motor carrier industries, safety advocates, labor, insurance, and enforcement sectors. Members are appointed by the Administrator and serve two year terms. They were chosen from a field of many qualified candidates who possess a wide range of motor carrier experience and expertise.

RSA is proud of Steve's appointment to chairman and looks forward to seeing additional positive changes in highway safety during his leadership.