



NEWS RELEASE
June 22, 2009

Raleigh, NC. Eight North Carolinians To Be Honored For Their Services To Transportation
- NCDOT Secretary Gene Conti to be Keynote Speaker and Perform Inductions

At a luncheon ceremony to be held on October 12, 2009 at the Ballantyne Resort Hotel in Charlotte, the following persons will be inducted into the North Carolina Transportation Hall of Fame:

John Gray Blount (early shipping pioneer in eastern NC)

R. Getty Browning (State Highway Commission employee responsible for obtaining most of the right-of-way for the Blue Ridge Parkway)

Champion McDowell Davis (lifelong employee and past president of the one-time Wilmington-based Atlantic Coast Line Railroad)

Paul P. Davis (past president of McLean Trucking Company)

Jack Murdock (past Secondary Roads Officer with NC Department of Transportation)

Zeke Saunders (former USAF and Piedmont Airlines pilot and past vice president for operations, Piedmont Airlines)

Ralph Whitehead (former president of Charlotte-based transportation engineering design firm, Ralph Whitehead & Associates)

T. Ralph Young, Jr. (president of Asheville-based motor coach company, Young Transportation)

Mr. Murdock, Mr. Saunders and Mr. Young will be present at the ceremony in person to be inducted. The others will be inducted posthumously, and will be represented by one of more family members.

In addition, annual awards are being presented to the **Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority**, **Mr. Eb Peters** (past DMV Commissioner and past executive director of the North Carolina Trucking Association), **Mr. Ed Frye** (Guilford Technical Community College, T. H. Davis Aviation Center), and Charlotte-based **AAA Carolinas**.

Corporate sponsors of the event so far include: **Thomas Built Buses**, **H. W. Lochner**, **Wilbur Smith Associates**, **Admiral Management International**, and **Archer Western Contractors**.

The 2009 Induction and Awards Ceremony is the sixth annual event and is the first to be held in Charlotte. Previous years' ceremonies were held in **High Point** (2004, 2005 and 2008), and in **Spencer** at the North Carolina Transportation Museum (2006 and 2007) where as permanent NCTHF exhibit is offered. Including the Inductee Class of 2009, a total of 47 individuals have been inducted into the Transportation Hall of Fame since its founding in 2003.

The ceremony and luncheon are open to the public, and more information, including ticket prices, can be obtained by going to the website: www.ncthf.org

The North Carolina Transportation Hall of Fame is a private non profit 501(c)(3) corporation.

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