

Ray H. LaHood Becomes the 16th U.S. Secretary of Transportation

By Fiz

Ray H. LaHood became the sixteenth U.S. Secretary of Transportation just before 1:00 p.m. Friday, January 23.

LaHood was joined for an official swearing-in ceremony in his new office by his wife Kathy, son Sam and fellow Illinoisan and Assistant Majority Leader, U.S. Senator Richard J. Durbin. The oath of office was administered by Linda Washington, Assistant Secretary for Administration, and took place before an audience of his new staff and members of the Department of Transportation transition team.

The full Senate confirmed LaHood by voice vote on January 22, following his being reported out of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee just the day before, on January 21. A ceremonial swearing-in will be scheduled at a later date. The Motorcycle Riders Foundation Champion of Motorcycle Rights and Safety award had been presented to Ray LaHood I believe that was in 2002. Ray LaHood served in the Congress from 1995 until 2008 as the representative from the 18th District of Illinois. His record on motorcycle issues during his tenure was outstanding. ABATE of Illinois considered him to be one of their best friends and allies in Congress. He has even been named a MRF Champion of Motorcycle Rights & Safety in the past.

We finally have someone in the Department of Transportation that will consider motorcyclists, and understand our lifestyle. Thanks to the great work of ABATE of Illinois for there grass roots work with there State and Federal congressmen. When we as members of ABATE of Michigan can see first hand what going to Lansing, meeting and being courteous to our State Legislators can end up dewing for all motorcyclists. I wonder why our members can't take one day off a year to meet with their legislators.