



For Immediate Release
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**National School Transportation Association
Participated in the Department of Education Event Honoring the
50th Anniversary of the Signing of the Civil Rights Act**



WASHINGTON, DC- The National School Transportation Association (NSTA) joined the American School Bus Council (ASBC) on July 2, 2014 for the Department of Education's Civil Rights Bus Ride ceremony at the U.S. Department of Education's Lyndon Baines Johnson Building in Washington, DC.

Today marks the 50th anniversary of the signing of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, a landmark bill that ended discrimination based on race, creed, color, sex or national orientation. This celebratory event consisted of a keynote address from Reverend Brenda Girton-Mitchell, Director, United States Department of Education Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, followed by a "returning freedom ride."

The symbolic "returning freedom" bus ride will transport six of the original Freedom Riders, and 49 students who competed in an academic process, from the Department of Education, around Washington, D.C. monuments including the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Capitol, and the Lincoln Memorial to Richmond, Virginia for an event with Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe and back to Washington, D.C.

National School Transportation Association member Durham School Services is providing the three school buses being used in the event. School buses are an important symbol from the civil rights movement, as they gave students the transportation needed to allow them to attend integrated schools.

"The National School Transportation Association is honored and pleased to participate in this event. The yellow school bus, which provides the safest form of transportation available, is vital to ensuring that all children attend school. We are grateful to the Department of Education for their recognition of the important link between school buses and education," stated NSTA President Tim Flood.

United States Senator Mark Warner; United States Representative Chaka Fattah; Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe; Department of Education Assistant Secretary Catherine E. Lhamon; and U.S. Department of Education Assistant Secretary for Communications and Outreach Massie Ritsch will be in attendance. The Freedom Riders include: Dion Diamond, Reverend Reginald Green, John Moody, Joan Trumpauer Mulholland, Charles Person, and Hank Thomas.

About NSTA:

The National School Transportation Association has been the voice of private school bus contractors, manufacturers and suppliers for 50 years. The association provides school transportation professionals with the tools and resources they need to make school buses safe, affordable, and efficient nationwide. Offices are at 122 South Royal Street Alexandria, VA 22314. Phone: 703-684-3200. Fax: 703-684-3212. www.yellowbuses.org

About the American School Bus Council:

The American School Bus Council is a coalition of the school transportation community with members committed to providing safe, effective, efficient and healthy transportation for the more than 25 million schoolchildren who ride more than 480,000 school buses each day. The Council's members include the National Association for Pupil Transportation, The National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services, the National School Transportation Association, Blue Bird Corporation of Fort Valley, Georgia, IC Bus Corporation of Lisle, Illinois, and Thomas Built Buses of High Point, North Carolina. www.americanschoolbuscouncil.org