

## **Trains: A Travel Choice Americans Want**

### **The evidence:**

- Polls consistently show that taxpayers want intercity passenger rail
- Amtrak ridership set new records in each of the last three years—and eight of the last nine
- Ballot initiatives for rail are passing in record numbers

### **The reasons:**

- Important alternative to congested highways and airways
- Helps travelers deal with rising energy costs
- Meets the mobility challenges of an aging population

## ***Congress Can Provide It!***

### **Create a New Federal/State Partnership for Rail**

### **Fund Amtrak—The Essential Platform for Service Expansion**

- Bring Rolling Stock & Infrastructure to a State of Good Repair
- Keep the National Network of Corridor and Long Distance Trains Running

[National Association of Railroad Passengers](#)

Representing Millions of American Train Riders  
Working for a Strong National Rail Passenger System

## **A Reception Honoring the Leadership and Members of the 109th Congress**



*Presented by the National Association of  
Railroad Passengers*

Thursday, April 27, 2006  
Foyer of the Rayburn House Office Building

**Presentation of**  
**The George Falcon Golden Spike Award**

*to*

***Senator Trent Lott (R-MS)***  
***Senator Robert C. Byrd (D-WV)***

*and*

***Representative Steven C. LaTourette (R-OH)***  
***Representative Corrine Brown (D-FL)***

With the George Falcon Golden Spike Award, NARP honors celebrities, elected officials, and other individuals who have significantly advanced the cause of making modern passenger train service a reality for the American people.

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**Presentation of**

**The Dr. Gary Burch Memorial Safety Award**

**to**

***Lanny F. Wilson, M.D. of Hinsdale, Illinois***

The Dr. Gary Burch Memorial Safety Award honors the individual who has done the most to improve the safety of railroad passengers. The award normally is given annually by the Burch family, and includes \$1,000. Dr. Burch was chief of the Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic at Eisenhower Hospital, Fort Gordon, Georgia. He and seven other passengers died July 31, 1991, in a passenger train derailment in South Carolina. His wife, Bette Burch, was traveling with him and was injured. She and their children Michael Burch and Kathryn Burch Pettyjohn have dedicated a portion of the settlement proceeds to this award, to encourage continuing improvements in rail passenger safety.

**We gratefully acknowledge  
these sponsors for helping to  
make this year's event possible**

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**James H. Stevenson**  
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**Susan Hamilton ♦ Robert Glover**  
**John DeLora ♦ George Chilson ♦ Will Bozeman**  
**Mike Garey ♦ Timothy Geeslin ♦ James Hamre ♦ Al**  
**Papp ♦ Bill Pollard ♦ James Salvador ♦ NARP Staff**

We also thank Chuck Mott for donating the copies of Alfred Runte's book "Allies of the Earth" (which will be presented to award recipients) and J. Craig Thorpe for donating copies of his artwork for display at this reception.