

I thank you for this award on behalf of the CGA, it's staff, the 811 committee, all of our members and PHMSA who have made this possible through long volunteer hours and generous funding of this program.

This award would not have been possible without the tireless effort of Khrysanne without Khrysanne, this award is not happening—she probably did not read this part.

Firstly, to receive an award named after Secretary Norman Mineta is a great honor—what a wonderful person, and great AMERICAN – a true role model.

Secondly to receive an award whose previous recipients include Secretary Mineta, Stacey Gerard and Lori Traweek, all people I truly admire and respect and who have all made lasting contributions to damage prevention, public safety, environmental protection and the integrity of services.

Now, to receive this award from NASFM---well, that truly is something. YOU and the brave people you represent from coast to coast have written the book on damage prevention, public safety, public awareness, training, knowledge and the incredible synergies of people from different backgrounds working together to make America a safer place.

If the CGA 811 initiative embodies, in any small way, the model set for us by the people in the NASFM community, we are on the right track.

Lastly, the CGA has more than 40 sponsors. But the day I heard that NASFM was becoming a CGA sponsor I was overjoyed. I truly felt that as a young organization, we had arrived.

And then you followed that by having first Jim Narva, then Alan Shuman represent your organization on our Board of Directors. How great was that. They have been instrumental in the growth of the CGA.

I am honored, the CGA is honored, and our 811 team is honored.

Thank you.