



*NATIONAL RISK  
MANAGEMENT  
SERVICES*

**NATIONAL TRUCK DRIVER  
\* APPRECIATION WEEK \***

**2017**

Trucking is a tough job; this country would grind to a halt without the hard work of 3.5 million truck drivers.

[National Risk](#) would to say **THANK YOU DRIVERS** during [National Truck Driver Appreciation Week, Sep. 10-16](#).

Our clients would also like to recognize their drivers, enjoy their contributions below.

**Andy Mulkey - Atlas Trucking Company, LLC (Taylor, MI)**

How did you get started in trucking?  
I grew up with my dad driving a truck.

What do you most like about the trucking industry?  
Trucking is never the same, it's always on the go, seeing different things.

How do you start the day?  
Always have a smile and say this is going to be a good day.

What is your favorite pastime?  
Playing softball, cleaning my truck and spending time with my family.

What advice do you have for future truckers?  
Always have an open mind and look out for other truckers.

Submitted by: Chris Bobeck

"Andy truly represents what a professional truck driver is. He works very hard to make our customers happy and always leaves them pleased that they had Atlas move their load. Andy understands that he is not only a truck driver, he is also a salesman, a Safety Auditor, a Traffic Manager, and so much more.

Andy also spends his free time promoting our industry. His weekends are



spent cleaning and polishing and then going to truck shows and Touch A Truck events. He truly enjoys showing the kids and their parents the equipment and explaining what his job entails."

### **Dave O'Donoghue - Kepich Transportation, Inc. (Cleveland, OH)**

How did you get started in trucking?

After a couple of years working in an office, I decided that environment wasn't for me. I then went to truck driving school.

What do you most like about the trucking industry?

I like that it gives me the opportunity to drive. I've always enjoyed driving.

How do you start the day?

Doing paperwork, and ensuring the tractor and trailer are in good condition before hitting the road.

What is your favorite pastime?

I enjoy playing and watching baseball.

What advice do you have for future truckers?

Be prepared for anything and everything.

Submitted by: Joe Kepich

"Dave is prompt, courteous and never complains about his job. He loves it!"



### **Tom Weir - Green Lines Transportation (Malvern, OH)**

How did you get started in trucking?

After working in the coal mines, I started driving for my father-in-law hauling coal.

What do you most like about the trucking industry?

Working at Green Lines as an owner-operator allows me to get home daily.

What is your favorite pastime?

Each day I do a few minutes of exercise and a careful pre-trip.

What advice do you have for future truckers?

Keep your license clean and be a defensive driver at all times.

Submitted by: Steve Ryan and Brad Yoder



"Tom stops by a couple of times a week and always had a smile on his face. He does his job with ease and is one of the most safety conscious drivers on the road."

**Jason Kutsar, Andre Nagniryak, Rashid Shigapov, Domin Lovric, Nenad Klinc, Igor Verkhovliak, Viktor Shvets, Petro Baluhk, Marek Blazejewski - Buckeye Intermodal (Cleveland, OH)**

Submitted by: Frank Gagy



"Nine of Buckeye's 48 drivers are recognized for driving one million miles without an at-fault accident. Each of the drivers were presented with a One Million Mile Club plaque from the National Safety Council during National Truck Driver Appreciation Week.

This is a significant milestone for two reasons. First, it celebrates the achievements of nine exceptional drivers. One million safe driving miles is not simply a matter of luck. Success at this level requires good judgement, character and will power. Secondly, it reflects a company culture that makes safety a priority and retains good drivers. 80% of Buckeye's drivers that have driven a million miles have received a Million Mile Club award. Buckeye Intermodal is also ranked as the safest drayage carrier in Northeast Ohio per FMCSA Basics scores. It is a winning organization that values drivers and celebrates success."

Congratulations to Buckeye Intermodal "Million Mile Club" Drivers!

**David S. Webb - Cleveland Express Trucking (Cleveland, OH)**

How did you get started in trucking?  
By driving trucks for an industrial cleaning company.

What do you most like about the trucking industry?  
Traveling, seeing different sites and meeting new people.

How do you start the day?  
Pre-trip the truck.

What is your favorite pastime?  
Spending time with family and playing games on my phone.

What advice do you have for future truckers?  
Respect other drivers and be nice to the customers.



Submitted by: Gene Carson

"David is a senior employee who has a good safety record and is steady over the road performance."

### **Kenneth Pearcy - Cleveland Express Trucking (Cleveland, OH)**

How did you get started in trucking?

A Deacon at my church was an owner operator who had just bought a second truck and needed a driver for it. I told him as a kid, I had always dreamed of being a truck driver but had no training. He took me under his wing, taught me some things on his truck and sent me to truck driving school. The rest is history. I worked with him for close to 2 years, but he tragically passed away. I stayed with trucking and joined where he had his first job.



What do you most like about the trucking industry?

The importance of this industry to the economy. The knowledge that everything bought, sold, manufactured, imported, exported or stored, all had to be trucked at some point. All of the other industries depend on this one.

How do you start the day?

With prayer, after a good nights sleep (both important). Once at work, a good pre-trip inspection to make sure my equipment is safe and I'm safe (just as important).

What is your favorite pastime?

Collecting die cast vehicles. I love anything that can be driven (cars, trucks, trains, planes, motorcycles, buses, boats, etc.)

What advice do you have for future truckers?

Strive to be the kind of driver that, if you owned the company, the type of driver you would like to work for you. Treat all of the equipment and shipments like they're your own.

Submitted by: Gene Carson

"Kenneth is a long time employee. he has a steady performance and a positive attitude."

### **James Nicholson - Champion Truck Lines (Camden, NJ)**

How did you get started in trucking?  
My father drove for Owens and Corning for 45 years, so that's where I got started.



What do you most like about the trucking industry?

The freedom, with no boss looking over your shoulder.

How do you start the day?

A prayer and coffee.

What is your favorite pastime?

Drag racing and fishing.

What advice do you have for future truckers?

Remember your drivers license is your livelihood!

Submitted by: Ralph and Jess DiFabio

"James is our 'super trucker.' Champion can always count on him to get the job done. He has an amazing attitude and loves his job. We would like to thank him for his dedication and hard work!"

### **Scott Poore - Champion Truck Lines (Camden, NJ)**

How did you get started in trucking?

Jess and Ralph



What do you most like about the trucking industry?

Being outside with no bosses on my back.

How do you start the day?

A coffee and cigarettes.

What is your favorite pastime?

Eating dinner.

What advice do you have for future truckers?

Be careful out on the road, watch out for other cars and trucks.

Submitted by: Ralph and Jess DiFabio

"Scott had no trucking experience in container work when he started with champion, now he is one of our best drivers. He goes above and beyond for Champion. We would like to thank him for his dedication and hard work!"

### **Mike Wilks - General Transport (Akron, OH)**

Submitted by: Rick Sumser

"Mike has been with General Transport for the past 13 years as a regional company driver. Mr. Wilks lived in Florida and started driving a straight truck when he was 16 years old. He went to truck driving school and drove Florida intrastate until he was old enough to operate interstate. Mike says the most important thing about a trucking career is that you have to like driving and have a family that can accept the time spent away from home. He spends most of his home time with his wife and takes care of 2 grown children whom have Fragile X and need constant attention."



### **Dan Hershner - General Transport (Akron, OH)**

Submitted by: Rick Sumser

"Dan Hershner has worked for General Transport for the past 17 years as both an owner operator and a company regional driver. In 1970, Dan rode along with a friend that was an owner operator and said that he felt really good about making trucking a career. Mr. Hershner started driving in a 1959 Mack B model with no power steering, no air conditioning, no air ride suspension and many other inconveniences that many young drivers may take for granted. For the first 10 years Dan jumped from company to company chasing the money but learned that staying put at a good company was more beneficial financially and better peace of mind. Dan and his wife spent many years boating and traveling in their motor home until fuel cost went over \$4.00 a gallon. Nowadays family is most important and they have multiple generations that live with him. The best advice to future drivers is you must love the road, make all your deliveries on time and have an understanding family that can deal with the time away from home."



### **Lee Hurley - Five Star Moving and Storage (Marietta, OH)**

How did you get started in trucking?  
I was laid off from my previous job occupation.

What do you most like about the trucking industry?

Being able to be your own boss in a way and seeing different places.

How do you start the day?

With some kind of breakfast and reading my daily devotional book.

What is your favorite pastime?

Attending dog agility shows with my wife.

What advice do you have for future truckers?

Be courteous, kind, respectful of others and safety.

Submitted by: Tom Weihl and Jane Perry

"Lee goes above and beyond in every move he does. Everyone talks very highly about him."



### Jason St. Clair - Five Star Moving and Storage (Marietta, OH)

How did you get started in trucking?  
Working labor around trucks.

What do you most like about the trucking industry?

Never being in the same place.

How do you start the day?

With coffee and a pre trip inspection.

What is your favorite pastime?

Working mechanics on the trucks.

What advice do you have for future truckers?

Always be cautious and alert from the moment you step foot in the truck.

Submitted by: Tom Weihl and Jane Perry

"Jason has demonstrated real "drive" for our company and truly enjoys what he does."



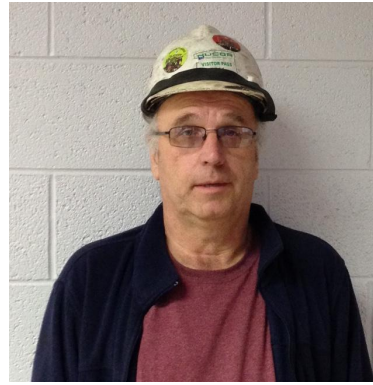
### Joe Saliga - Atlas Trucking Company, LLC. (Taylor, MI)

How did you get started in trucking?

I was always interested in trucking since I was a kid. I started out hauling steel throughout Detroit at 21 years old.

What do you most like about the trucking industry?

I love to see new things and meet people. I love the freedom of picking where and when you go.



How do you start the day?

Coffee and prayer, not always in that order.

What is your favorite pastime?

Boating and family time.

What advice do you have for future truckers?

Plan for the unexpected. Tell no one when you will be home - that way you can't let them down.

Submitted by: Jeff Bronson

"Joe has gone above and beyond as an owner operator for Atlas Trucking. The level of service and professionalism he provides is excellent. The customers ask for him to pick up and deliver at their locations. When we started a driver training program, we approached Joe to see if he may have an interest in being a trainer. I was expecting to hear the answer no. Instead, I heard an enthusiastic yes. I also expected to have to pay a substantial amount for his service. Instead he told us he didn't expect any monetary compensation. He felt that as a professional driver it was his responsibility to take the opportunity to teach. This would ensure that there would be professional drivers coming up through the ranks in our industry. Joe sees the greater picture. He knows that the new driver will be traveling next to his family and friends. When in a facility loading, or unloading if he sees that another is struggling with a load or could use some assistance, he volunteers. Why? Just because it's the right thing to do.

Joe is also a Driver Mentor. He takes calls at all hours from our current drivers as well as drivers who have left Atlas for other opportunities. Why? Because they need help. His leadership is rare and the results have placed a positive spotlight on Atlas. In conclusion one of the best compliments I have heard from a trainee who is now on his own regarding Joe was 'every day I strive to be the driver that Joe is. If I accomplish that then I consider myself successful.' Joe is a professional business man and a caring individual. I do not think any more needs to be said."



