

Candidate #1 - Bill Hatcher, Indianapolis Fruit - submitted by Steve Brown

Bill Hatcher is the "always talked about but rarely seen" professional truck driver. Good driving record, no accidents, never late to work or to customers, flawless paperwork/record keeping and keeps our customers happy and coming back. All of this is great but, not what sets him apart. This driver truly cares about being safe for himself, the company and most importantly, the driving public. The roads are safe around his truck because he is committed to being safe. Yet, Bill still gets the job done without the need to cut corners. Safe, easily managed, timely, good attitude? Yes! And he's ours...you can't have him. The consummate professional, no cowboy.



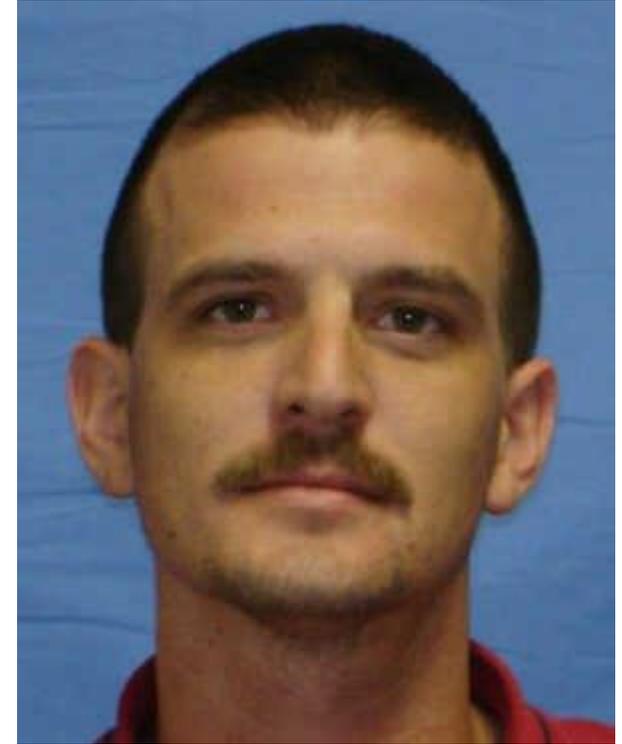
Candidate #2 – Eric Schimming, Pitt Ohio - submitted by Amber Schimming

Eric, my husband and father of our three children, is the very definition of Safety! He lives every day aware that he drives the most impressive vehicle on the road, and with that privilege comes great responsibility! He treats every day as a new opportunity to protect himself and those around him. He has fifteen safe driving years in the trucking industry; ten with Alvan and the last five with Pitt Ohio. Every day begins with a thorough pre-trip. Some days are longer than planned because repairs must be made before heading onto the road, but he is willing to make that sacrifice because safety is priority! He also takes opportunities to help educate the public. He volunteered at the No Zone Project where he gave semi “tours” and educated people on blind spots. He volunteers at several Trucking Championships working in Pre-Trip. He has also competed the last five years and won 2015 Grand Champion in Ohio! In 2016, he competed in Indiana. Eric has been a Trainer for three years and considers it an incredible honor to pass on his knowledge to new drivers. His hope is to create a passion for safety in everyone he trains. Safety is not just something Eric does but who he is, and a message he wants to share with everyone! It is his dedication to safety that brings him safely home to us every night! He is our hero and so very deserving of your recognition for his commitment to safety!



Candidate #3 – Andrew Roberson, Celadon Trucking – submitted by Peggy Musall

Andrew Roberson: our most appreciated and safest driver. Andrew has been with Celadon since 9/13/06 to 9/11/07 and 10/23/14 to present. Andrew is a trainer for Celadon (Trainer of the Month January, 2016), and has trained 18 students from Celadon Driving Academy. He has only good reviews by students who have gone on to be excellent drivers. Andrew has a clean driving record, no accidents or moving violations. Andrew is valuable to us here in the Celadon training department. We have a train the trainer class every Wednesday, when Andrew is in town he stops by and helps out with the class, giving his insight to new trainers. He has given us two videos which we use to train the trainers on how to train the students on backing up. He gets an applause every time he takes over the class. Andrew is an excellent, relate-able speaker and talks in the drivers' language. Andrew gives our students tips on driving safely and being a safe driver on the road. He is passionate about making sure our students are safe, courteous drivers on the road. He wants to pass on his knowledge and share all he knows. During the recent flooding's in Louisiana, Andrew went home to help out his neighbors even though he himself had damage to his home. Andrew is dedicated to helping new drivers and I wish I had more words to use as I cannot say enough good things about him.



Candidate #4 – Keith Jones, Meyer Distributing –
submitted by Amanda Moore

Keith is a very hardworking driver, goes above and beyond the call of duty, never complains and always eager to help out. He is a safe driver, never had a complaint about him from anyone. I enjoy working with him, I can always count on him if I, or the company needs anything. I am very proud to call him one of our men!!

Candidate #5 – Angie Hall, GLM Transport – submitted by Samantha Wiswell

GLM Transport would like to nominate Angie Hall for the “What’s so special about a Truck Driver?” contest.

The trucking industry needs more women like Angie Hall. She has been a wonderful asset to our company since the very beginning. Angie has been with GLM Transport since 2014 and has continually been a top performer for our company, having driven over 361,605 miles in just those two years. 93,275 of those miles in just 2016..... Thus far!

She has been through 3 safety inspections with NO violations in the 2016 year and was awarded the 2015 Safe Driver Award for GLM Transport. She never fails to do her pre-trip inspections and is always keeping in touch with her dispatch and safety departments.

Angie is a person that is always putting a smile on your face and always has a story to tell. She leads the GLM Transport Driver Rewards program, to award safe driving, with over 400 points.

We love having her as a member of our GLM Family and think that she greatly deserves to be the winner of the “What’s so special about a Truck Driver?” Contest.



Candidate #6 – Jose Soto, E.J. Farms Trucking, Inc. – submitted by Amy Hein

Jose is our top driver hands down. He came to us in November of 2011. Every day he shows up to work with a smile on his face no matter what is going on in his personal life. He has been taking care of his mother with cancer and his wife just passed away from cancer. Even with everything he had to deal with, he still drove exceptionally. He has never had an accident while in his 5 years with us. His paperwork and logs are as neat as they come. Jose takes excellent care of our truck and equipment just like it was his own. He is brought up to us time and time again by different shippers on how great he is to work with. He is always willing to answer a question that a newer driver may have. He gives 110% every day and even through a DOT audit, they complimented his paperwork. Jose is just a rare special person who we wish everyone had a chance to know. He is safe but gets the job done. He never avoids calls from dispatch and always has a good joke to tell. We hope you consider him for this award. I can't think of anyone more deserving.



Candidate #7 – Michael Willen, Heartland Express – submitted by Terri Clay

Michael Willen exemplifies what is best about a truck driver. He is professional, conscientious, courteous, and above all safe. He is a local driver and also a certified driver trainer. He uses the skills he has learned through the years to help new drivers entering the industry start off in a safe and professional manner. Mike has completed multiple advanced training programs for professional drivers including Smith System, train the trainer academy, and advanced C-TPAT training. He has used this knowledge to offer countless tips and suggestions to help newer drivers improve their skillset. Mike shows his level of commitment every day, always willing to do what is best for the Company and our Customers often times arranging his schedule to assist when and where he is needed.

Mike is the kind of guy that does his job and believes special treatment or extra recognition is not necessary. He is always willing to jump in and help out as he is needed. He also is always asking questions and adding information to his knowledge base. When he is not working he enjoys spending time with his wife, children, and grandchildren. He enjoys building and always seems to have one project or another going on. Mike is an all-around great guy to work with and is a great asset to our team.



Candidate #8 – Val Roland, Magnum Express – submitted by Jody Zack

Val started his career with Magnum as an Owner Operator back in September of 2000. Throughout his career with Magnum he has driven well over a 1,000,000 (safely) and has driven roughly 4,500,000 (safely) throughout his entire driving career. Not only is Val a treasured employee but he is just a spectacular human being, I know because I have been working with Val for 12 years. It is a privilege to work with Val but an even bigger privilege to know him. Val is 74 years young and can run circles around any driver in the fleet regardless of age or experience. Secretly we think he might be part super hero J Val's safety record is superb and he is never late on loads. Safety is Val's middle name, it's top priority for him. His professionalism is tops....if we could only clone him.....



Candidate #9 – Charlie Gaalema, Magnum Express – submitted by Jody Zack and Heather Becker

Charlie has been driving for Magnum Express for 6 years as a Shuttle driver and Spotter for one of our biggest customers in Indianapolis. Charlie is a dedicated, hardworking and an attention to detail driver and is someone who is always available to cover overtime. He is a driver trainer and has infinite patience with the new drivers and is always available to answer their questions and help when needed. Charlie has a perfect safety record with no accidents or complaints in 6 years of service and the customer loves him. I'm constantly asked if I could "hire 10 more Charlie's". He takes pride in his tractor by keeping it clean inside and out and is always communicating with Maintenance, regarding any issues he may find during his pre and post trip inspections. Charlie is someone that we can always count on to get the job done safely and on time. He is appreciated by all and he is someone that we feel lucky to have by a part of the Magnum team. When Charlie isn't working he loves spending time with his wife, daughter, and grandkids.



Candidate #10 – Matt Fisher, Magnum Express – submitted by Jody Zack and Robb Ballard

Matt has been driving for Magnum Express for 4 years as a City Driver in and around Indianapolis, IN. Matt is a dedicated, hardworking and an attention to detail driver and is someone who always volunteers for overtime. He strives to be the all star player in our local fleet by demonstrating safety and service that is second to none. Matt has never had a service failure or a safety violation since he has been with Magnum Express. He takes pride in his tractor by keeping it clean inside and out and is always communicating with Maintenance, regarding any issues he may find during his pre and post trip inspections. He is always professional and courteous when interacting with our customers. It's seldom that you will ever find Matt in a bad mood. He is always fun and outgoing when he is in the office. Matt is someone that we can always count on to get the job done safely and on time. We always say that Matt is "our go to guy". He is appreciated by all and he is someone that we feel lucky to have by a part of the Magnum team. When Matt isn't working he enjoys knitting and reading.



Candidate #11 – Joe Leckron, Cummins, Inc. – Submitted by Ashley Glenn

There is no question trucking moves America forward. With that being said, a professional truck driver's safety is crucial even before they leave the yard. So, where does safe ty start for the driver? Is it the pre-trip inspection or the test drive before a carrier buys a rig? No, actually safety starts with professional drivers like Joe Leckron. Leckron is a driver of a different kind. He's a Technical Support Specialist for Cummins, Inc. Although Joe may not be carrying a hot load to a supplier, he's no stranger to the road. His job is challenging and can be dangerous.

Joe's primary role is to test drive soon to be released engines, working with engineers to make sure all truck software functions properly. These programs are vital to a driver's safety and some are often overlooked as normal functions (i.e. cruise control, truck speed limiters). The load Joe carries behind his rig is not a product, but a laboratory on wheels.

On his summer test this past August, the objective was to test 2019 engines in extreme heat and high altitudes. For this they headed to Baker, California and also traveled up Loveland Pass in Colorado. These trips can last up to thirty-one days with crews working the maximum hours allowed by the DOT. He would only say he's doing his job, but without professional drivers like Leckron on the front lines; it would be impossible for the road to be safe. Joe Leckron helps keep America moving safely forward!

