



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Thoennes Named Minnesota's Top 2008 Truck Driver

At the Minnesota Trucking Association Driver of the Year Awards Banquet on Monday night, the Driver of the Year Award was presented to Donald Thoennes.

St. Paul, MN: The Minnesota Trucking Association (MTA) named Donald Thoennes, a professional truck driver for Kane Transportation based in Sauk Centre Minnesota, as Minnesota's 2008 Truck Driver of the Year.

Thoennes was selected from among a group of distinguished drivers (see list below) by a team of judges comprised of the division administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, a captain from the Minnesota State Patrol and a director at the Minnesota Department of Transportation. He was chosen based upon his safe driving record, job performance and community service. The Minnesota Truck Driver of the Year Program has been in existence since 1973.

Donald is a professional truck driver for Kane Transport Inc. hauling petroleum products to gas stations and bulk plants. During his **32 years on the road**, Don has driven over **2.3 million accident free miles** and has earned several safe-driving awards. Donald and his wife Cindy live in Alexandria, Minn. During his "off-duty" time, Donald enjoys fishing, carpentry, and working on his car.

The 2008 Drivers of the Month and nominees:

- **John Ashley** of Kottke Trucking, Inc., Buffalo Lake, MN
- **Ray Barker** of Caledonia Haulers, Inc., Caledonia, MN
- **Mark Bigalk** of FedEx Ground, Mahtomedi, MN
- **Donald Borgen** of CHS Inc., Rosemount, MN
- **Eric Jacobson** of Spee-Dee Delivery Service, St. Cloud, MN
- **David Myer** of Con-Way Freight, Fridley, MN
- **Edwin Smith** of TFE Toro Transport Express, Lakeville, MN
- **David Street** of Bartels Transportation Services, Inc., Winthrop, MN
- **Todd Thompson** of LeFebvre & Sons Inc., Elk River, MN
- **Brett Wilson** of McFarland Truck Lines, Inc., Austin, MN

Photos are available by e-mailing krystal@mntruck.org or calling (651) 646-7351.

The MTA is a non-profit trade association representing the interests of the state's motor carrier industry since 1932. With almost 700 member companies, the MTA is a powerful voice for the industry. Its mission is to provide advocacy, information and services to ensure safe transportation and a successful Minnesota trucking industry.

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