

Rogue driver turns safety director extraordinaire

Seventeen years ago, no one would have believed that G.C. Faircloth Jr. would someday receive the Safety Professional of the Year award from the Washington Trucking Associations. Back in those days, G.C. caused his safety director headache upon headache. G.C. had grown up in trucking and with 17 years of driving experience, he knew *and used* every shortcut. After being called into the safety director's office many times about his less than aboveboard ways, he decided it was time to move on.

What a surprise to G.C. when he received a phone call from that same safety director asking him to take the job of safety coordinator in charge of hours of service logbooks. He laughed, thinking it was a joke. The safety director responded, "Who do banks consult when they want to prevent robberies?" G.C. replied with a smile, "Bank robbers," and then he accepted the job. The rule-bending master was now on the chase. And he knew every trick in the book!

His colleagues lost no time ribbing him about his new role, believing they now had a man on the inside, but G.C. took his new role seriously and took the barbs in stride stating, "Those days are over." Safety had become his new value. He admits that he even put his own father out of service *twice* for hours-of-service violations! The new sheriff in town knew everyone's game and what's more he truly cared about all of them.

G.C. believes that truckers are a family - a family that, in the words of the American Trucking Associations, "Moves America Forward" and he wants to take care of them. In order to do this, he takes a hands-on approach, observing and talking to drivers and workers in the field. He says the best ideas come from "boots on the ground." He tracks requests from employees and when he finds themes, he responds.

He keeps management at Safeway, Inc. engaged in safety using an observation program. He has each manager observe a worker, then ask safety-related questions and ask for feedback from the worker. They track worker responses and weigh employee recommendations to target investments in safety. Keeping management at Safeway engaged in safety is a priority because as G.C. states, "Safety is a culture for business success."

Seventeen years ago, G.C. chose to put safety first and it changed not only his life, but the lives of those around him. Working safe is a choice you make each day and every day is an opportunity to turn your life around. Congratulations G.C. on your well-deserved recognition as Safety Professional of the Year!

* The Safety Professional of the Year award is presented to the safety professional whose company and colleagues believe that he or she has made an impact on safety in their company and in the industry. The individual must have a passion for safety that is shown by their dedication and ethics.



G.C. Faircloth Jr., CDS
Regional Transportation/Warehouse
Safety Superintendent,
Safeway Inc., Northwest Division,
receiving the Safety Professional
of the Year Award.

www.KeepTruckingSafe.org