



## Trailways Unveils Five Outstanding Motorcoach Drivers of the Year

### *News Release*

Fairfax, Va. - April 1, 2018 - Trailways has announced that five bus and coach drivers from three states have received its highest honor: Driver of the Year (2017). The names were unveiled February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the Trailways annual owners' meeting in Florida. The awardees were from Alabama, Maryland and New York. The criteria to be nominated is highly challenging. During the prior calendar year (2017):

- A full-time bus/motorcoach driver must drive at least 20,000 miles or provide service for at least 600 hours;
- A part-time bus/motorcoach driver must drive at least 10,000 miles or provide service for at least 300 hours;
- Any driver nominated must have no "preventable accidents" and must not be Absent or late to work.

Five individuals were nominated and met the challenges. They drive for charters and/or scheduled routes. Their companies provided their travel arrangements to the Florida meeting and Trailways provided accommodations for them and their family to be honored in person at the annual awards dinner. Lancer Insurance sponsors the award program annually.

"Normally, Trailways has one or two awardees, but five drivers were nominated for 2017, showing the pride and gratitude of their company leaders. All serve as great role models," Trailways chairman, Jonathan Berzas, said. (Fullington Trailways, Penn.).

### **The Trailways Outstanding Drivers of the Year award recipients for the 2017 calendar year are:**

**#1) Bill Backus of First Priority Trailways of Maryland.** He is nominated by Marcia Milton, President & CEO of First Priority which is located near Washington, D.C. Bill drove forty-three thousand five hundred miles accident free in 2017. Bill has served for 16 Years with First Priority. He is their most-requested driver as well as a driver trainer. Priority transports some very important customers .... such as the U.S. Army Medical Center, the Pentagon and even the White House. In fact, Bill was the lead driver for the Obama inauguration several years ago. Afterwards, the Secret Service called to compliment his professionalism. Even the director of transportation for the Pentagon praised him as a great leader...

Marcia says Bill "represents all that Trailways stands for." Our clients compliment him for his professional dress, behavior and driving abilities," she said.

**#2) Tomas Caminero of Adirondack Trailways of New York.** He is nominated by Joe Aversaro, Vice President of Operations and Safety. Tomas drove seventy-two thousand, four hundred and seventy miles in 2017 accident free. Tom is truly happy to come to work every day. "His positive attitude and enthusiasm are contagious" Joe said. Tomas is a dedicated charter driver. He has safely driven State University of New York charters throughout northern New York in hazardous conditions many times. His dispatcher says Tomas is the ultimate professional. "He is prompt, eager and keeps his uniform clean and tidy. He is willing to help on all levels." Tomas has no preventable accidents of any kind and has not been absent or late for work in all of 2017.

**#3) Ed Horn of Pine Hill Trailways of New York.** He is also nominated by Joe Aversano. Ed has been a full-time scheduled route driver for 25 years. He has also been a Driver trainer for 15 years. Last year, he drove fifty-nine thousand six hundred miles accident-free. Ed drives from Kingston into the Port Authority of New York everyday...Through city traffic and the Lincoln Tunnel...plus trips further upstate to and from Utica. In addition, Ed participates in the annual seminars with the Safety Department and has his certification to train in the Smith Driving System. In total, during his 25 years, he has driven an amazing one point three million accident-free miles.

**#4) Doug Buffone and he's from New York Trailways in Rochester, NY.** He was nominated by Jack Barker, the company's Vice President. Doug drives the scheduled route between Buffalo and New York City. Last year, he logged ninety-three thousand, two hundred and seventy miles. Doug has all the qualities you could possibly hope for in an employee and driver...he's upbeat, and willing to go the extra step to assist passengers. He's cooperative and prompt with his trip reports. One of his regular passengers says..." He has a very professional attitude ... We need more drivers like him! Doug has a great philosophy: he says, "on every trip, there's at least one first-time rider sitting behind you."

**#5) Rick Calloway of Capital and Colonial Trailways of Montgomery Alabama.** He was nominated by Tom Fletcher, president of bus company. Rick has been with the company for 38 years. Over the years, Rick has driven Charters as well line runs and tours. Not surprisingly, he is the company's most experienced driver. Even more incredible, he never has had a chargeable accident. Rick has many letters of praise from customers over the years. He's always described as safe, patient, careful, courteous, and kind. Rick is an example for their driving force and the company overall. Rick Calloway, had one hundred thousand, two hundred and sixty safe driving miles last year.



Far left and far right, representatives from the award sponsor company, Lancer Insurance, Robert (Bob) Crescenzo and Randy O'Neill.

*Front row*, from left, 2017 Trailways Outstanding Driver of the Year Award recipients:

Danny Bishop with Harlows Trailways, ND\*; Bill Backus with First Priority Trailways of Maryland; Tomas Caminero with Adirondack Trailways of New York; Ed Horn with Pine Hill Trailways of New York; Douglas Buffone with New York Trailways and Ricky Calloway with Capital and Colonial Trailways of Alabama.

*Back row*, nominations submitted by owner-operators, Marcia Milton with First Priority Trailways, Md; Eugene (Gene) Berardi with Adirondack/Pine Hill/New York Trailways, NY, and Mike Hazard and Tom Fletcher with Capitol-Colonial Trailways, Ala.

Announced at the Trailways Awards Gala Dinner - Hilton San Destin, Florida - Feb. 27, 2018. Sponsored by Lancer Insurance.

Contact Trailways - 703-691-3052 Ext. 3 Eva Hotard or Tracey Simmons

For charters or tickets, please visit [www.trailways.com](http://www.trailways.com).

\*Special Safe Driver Recognition Awardee - separate award presented (please contact Trailways for more information [tracey@trailways.com](mailto:tracey@trailways.com) or call 703-691-3052 Ext. 3).

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