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# NEWS RELEASE

MISSOURI TRUCKING ASSOCIATION

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For Immediate Release

## TRUCKING INDUSTRY HONORS THE BEST OF THE BEST IN KANSAS CITY

KANSAS CITY, MO. – On June 8 & 9, 2012, the Missouri Trucking Association held the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Missouri Truck Driving Championships at Holiday Inn KCI Airport & KCI Expo Center in Kansas City, MO, the Official TDC Headquarters.

The two-day event evaluated 174 drivers on their knowledge of the industry, first aid, safety and security, and required federal vehicle inspections. The participants were then interviewed by industry experts before competing on a point-value-assessed driving skills course of six obstacles to be completed under actual everyday conditions. In their respective classes, drivers tested their expertise in the driving skills they use daily. The skills course tested drivers' ability to judge distances, maneuver tight spaces, reverse, park, and position their vehicle exactly over scales, before barriers or around curves.

Over 530 on-lookers at the Awards Banquet Saturday evening saw **Richard Myers** of Walnut Ridge, AR, receive the prestigious "Grand Champion" title as Missouri's best of the best. Rick, a driver for Walmart Transportation of St. James, MO, achieved this recognition by outscoring all other competitors in four elements of skill and knowledge.

Mr. Myers was also awarded the top driver in the Sleeper Berth Class in the annual safe driving competition sponsored by the Association's Council of Safety Supervisors. He will be joined by eight other class winners as the Missouri Championship Team reporting to Minneapolis, MN to compete against other state teams in the American Trucking Association's Truck Driving Championships August 7 – August 11, 2012. During the competition the Missouri Team will compete against 450 other professionals vying for selection as the nation's top professional truck drivers.

First, second and third place winners in all nine classes of competition as well as the top "Rookie" and the driver with the best Pre-Trip Inspection were honored at the Awards Banquet.

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Winners and runners-up in the classes of competition are listed below with the driver's hometown, and employer company and location.

**Straight Truck Class**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – **Gary Risman**, St. Jacob, IL, – *Con-way Freight, St. Louis, MO*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – **David Wiechers**, Lees Summit, MO – *ABF Freight System, Kansas City, MO*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – **Bruce Diener**, Byrnes Mill, MO – *YRC Freight, St. Louis, MO*

**Three Axle Class**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – **Lynn Wilson**, Springfield, MO – *Con-way Freight, Marshfield, MO*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – **Mark Goodwin**, Warrensburg, MO – *YRC Freight, Kansas City, MO*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – **Keith Evans**, Fairview Heights, IL – *Con-way Freight, St. Louis, MO*

**Four Axle Class**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – **Wayne Pierce**, Old Monroe, MO – *UPS Freight, St. Louis, MO*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – **Albert Hockett**, St. James, MO – *Con-way Freight, Rolla, MO*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – **Kelly Asher**, Billings, MO – *FedEx Freight, Springfield, MO*

**Five Axle Van Class**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – **Bobby Vorhees**, Moberly, MO – *Orscheln Farm & Home, Moberly, MO*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – **Shane Olds**, Joplin, MO – *USF Holland, Joplin, MO*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – **James Kristek**, Nevada, MO – *Con-way Freight, Nevada, MO*

**Tank Truck Class**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – **Thomas Miller**, Bunker Hill, IL – *Prime, Springfield, MO*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – **Jon Hume**, St. Peters, MO – *FedEx Freight, St. Charles, MO*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – **Gary Kamler**, Sullivan, MO – *Wallis Companies, Cuba, MO*

**Flatbed Class**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – **Parvin Simpson**, St. Louis, MO – *Con-way Freight, St. Louis, MO*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – **Duane Grimme**, Satsuma, FL – *Prime, Springfield, MO*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – **Joseph Mangiaracino**, Sullivan, MO – *FedEx Freight, St. Clair, MO*

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**Sleeper Berth Class**

1<sup>st</sup> – **Richard Myers**, Walnut Ridge, AR – *Walmart Transportation, St. James, MO*

2<sup>nd</sup> – **Bobby Chilcoat**, Moore, OK – *Con-way Truckload, Joplin, MO*

3<sup>rd</sup> – **William White**, Independence, MO – *YRC Freight, Kansas City, MO*

**Twin Trailers Class**

1<sup>st</sup> – **Michael Keeney**, Rogersville, MO – *Con-way Freight, Marshfield, MO*

2<sup>nd</sup> – **Wayne Darnell**, Poplar Bluff, MO – *Con-way Freight, Poplar Bluff, MO*

3<sup>rd</sup> – **Timothy Cruise**, Newburg, MO – *Con-way Freight, Rolla, MO*

**Step Van Class**

1<sup>st</sup> – **James Houghton**, Gower, MO – *FedEx Express, Kansas City, MO*

2<sup>nd</sup> – **John Wood III**, Kansas City, MO – *FedEx Freight, Kansas City, MO*

3<sup>rd</sup> – **Brian Anderson**, Joplin, MO – *FedEx Ground, Joplin, MO*

**Gary Kamler** of Sullivan, MO, a driver for *Wallis Companies* out of Cuba, MO, was named "Rookie of the Year" for his outstanding well-rounded performance as a first-time contestant.

The "Pre-Trip Inspection" award for the highest score in assuring that a vehicle is in safe and efficient operating condition before leaving on a trip went to **Joe Unverzagt** of Woodriver, IL, a driver for *Con-way Freight* in St. Louis, MO.

The "Team Championship" went to **Con-way Freight**, based in Ann Arbor, MI, for having the highest average team score in the competition.

The keynote speaker for the evening was **Mark Muso**, President & CEO of Special Olympics Missouri.

6/11/2012

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