

The Million Milers

I experienced an event recently while driving on a minor highway which had the usual construction so prevalent in our burgeoning economy. Whenever I change into a lane in front of a truck I always pull well ahead and put on my signal so that I am not pulling into the driver's braking envelope. I had to merge into a lane in front of a truck so I followed the usual procedure and made my lane change. To my surprise I heard the turbo spool up on the truck behind me and the rig accelerated to within a few feet of my rear bumper. The driver then proceeded to deplete his reserve air with his air horn.

After my life stopped flashing before my eyes, I thought to myself - "I don't think that this is a Million Mile Club Inductee".

With this in mind, the CAFS annual Million Mile Club Presentation ceremony struck me as one of the most important events of the year for the commercial transport industry. We are honoring extraordinary performances by one of the most important resources in our industry. These individuals have successfully navigated millions of pounds of equipment and cargo around every challenge directed their way without being involved in a preventable accident. If you are counting, some of the recipients actually have doubled the million mile achievement without an accident.

How many of us can say that we have been able to drive 100,000 miles in far more maneuverable equipment when we have our choice of operating conditions?

Talking to the recipients during the evening revealed overriding traits which I believe have contributed to their success.

- Stability in home life.
- Stability in job – most had spent their careers with three or less companies.
- Support from company – the attending inductees also verbalized their appreciation for the support of their employers.
- Support from supervisors – again, attending inductees had their supervisors on hand to encourage the drivers and help cherish the moment. Kudos to Bryan Sotheran and Rick Viventi.
- Hobbies outside the industry – These men had interests in their personal live which keep them healthy and focused.
- **Patience and consideration.**

Safe driving is like good maintenance – it is not flashy or sexy. It is hard work and dedication to task. The performance of elite few who can attain the level shown by the inductees should be heralded from the tallest buildings.

In all, it was a worthy event honoring the cream of our crop.

My only question is the same as that expressed by Fergus Savage – Where is the Press?