



Melbourne Truck Driver Honored for Safety
Church Member Wayne Blubaugh
by Andrew Potter
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A truck driver from Melbourne hit the two million mile mark without an accident recently. For his work to stay safe, Wayne Blubaugh was honored by Ruan Transport Company, which he has driven for since 1985.

Blubaugh, who takes loads out of Swift & Company in Marshalltown, said his secret to being safe is to stay alert.

"You look around and watch the traffic," he said.

Keeping alert means giving in to sleep when it is called for.

"The biggest key is if you are tired pull over and don't push yourself," he said.

Blubaugh calls trucking "an office with a view" and enjoys taking in the landscape when he travels across the country. "I enjoy the scenery, going to different places, meeting different people and the freedom," he said.

When asked what is the most memorable sight he has taken in on the road it is something he actually saw twice. He saw the space shuttle flying on the back of a 747 in Arizona. It was being transported from Edwards Air Force Base to Florida.

"It was flying real low and you could see it flying with the space shuttle on the back," he said.

"That was probably one of the neatest things I've seen".

Technology has improved as far as perks in the cab of his vehicle. To pass the time on the radio he likes to listen to talk shows on satellite radio. "It's a lot better than what it used to be 30 years ago," he said.

Blubaugh credited his wife Ronda for taking care of things at home when he was on the road.

The couple has three grown children and one grandchild.

"My wife has been the backbone of the family," he said. "She's been behind me all the way."

Life on the road made him miss time when his kids were growing up but that made him appreciate the time he was at home.
Blubaugh received a plaque and a belt buckle recognizing his accomplishment from Ruan.