

# Terry Alberter • SAV Driver of the Year

I received "Driver Of The Year" at SAV Express, an all owner-operator company in Coon Rapids, MN. I have been driving for 13 years. My father, Jim Molnar, started out racing cars, to go into food concessions for fairs and festival, and all other events. My sister, Faith McGee, was the first to teach me how to drive a stick shift, with my father and sister to show me the ropes of driving. I have been addicted to the road ever since.

When I was 13, my mom, Diana Ross, married Robert Edwards, who started a trucking company. Every chance I got I learned to drive a big rig, a Diamond Rio, two sticks, no air conditioning, no power steering, spring ride, and roll-in and roll-out sleeper. Trucks have come along way since then.

My mom and stepfather started their company in Casper, WY, where I would take loads from the yard and drop them at oil rigs. I was 15 years old, driving local to drilling rigs. In Wyoming you can get your driver's license at 15. I was also in high school going to vocational train-

ing to become a cosmetologist. I currently still hold an active cosmetology license, but my heart is driving a big rig.



*Terry Alberter, Owner-Operator*

My first eight years I worked for a couple of trucking companies hauling different commodities. For five years, I worked for a trade show company, hauling different shows to convention centers. I really enjoyed doing this. I got to see the country and learn the history of the U.S.

One of my all time thrills was hauling NAS-CAR's Matt Kenseth #17 car. When I arrived in Liberty, NC, I had to demonstrate skills to be

able to haul the car. Every driver must go through a process and qualify to haul their cars, which includes using special tools to set the car in a hauling position and show position, lifting the hood and pulling the air cleaner, installing the spark plugs, placing the air cleaner back on, closing the hood, locking it into position, then pulling the steering wheel off climbing into the car, placing the steering wheel back on and starting the car up. WHAT A

FEELING hearing the engine; it all felt like a dream. I then had to place the car in the trailer with just inches to spare, climb out, and ratchet strap the car down to drive it up to Toronto, Canada. No one was allowed to come near the car; that was the worst threat. Everyone wanted to climb into it and touch it. I had to have security guide me out and into the convention center, pull all starting mechanisms off of it and place velvet ropes around it and place the car into an aerodynamic position. Matt Kenseth then flew in and signed autographs and interviews for the convention show group. I stayed in Toronto, Canada for three days, and hauled the car back to Roush Racing, where they were very impressed with my professional skills. I was so proud as a woman that I could achieve this challenge.

My next all time thrill and a once in a life time experience was picking up a load going from Tracy, CA to Anchorage, AK. I left February 20th and returned to the U.S. on March 6th. I left the U.S. crossing through Blaine, WA and drove north of Hope, BC, - that's when the adventure started: blizzard conditions, windy, icy roads, and a two-lane road all the way to Anchorage. Fuel stops were 500 to 700 miles apart. Most of their fuel stops are card locked and all I had was TCH card, so my fuel stops were very limited. Everyone in British Columbia, Yukon Territory, and the Alaskan DOT were the nicest people. They all let me know where my next fuel, food, and scales were. I would go hours without seeing another vehicle on the road. I wasn't warned about CB radio. They use VHF radios to get out farther, to warn drivers about the moose, buffalo, caribou, and other animals that would be laying or crossing the roads. I lost all communication with the

world, no cell phone, no Sirius radio, no CB communication, and no AM/FM radio, just CD's. The temperature was -60 to -100 degrees. The best part of the trip was stopping to take over 700 beautiful pictures. By the time I reached Anchorage, I was so excited to see Fur Rondy was in town. All the dog sleds practicing for the 1,000 mile race in 10 days and the natives were in town to sell and trade their items. The carved ice sculptures downtown were amazing.

The drive back to the U.S. was very dangerous. I came back to the states empty; it was icy and windy. I was so relieved to be back in one piece. What an amazing challenge as a woman all alone.

Just when I thought I had achieved most challenges of the average truck driver and as a woman driver, I decided to become an owner-operator for SAV Express. It was a big responsibility and a side of trucking I haven't done before. I am so glad I chose SAV because they support you and financially consult with you, so you don't fail.

I have worked for a handful of companies, giving them dedication and quality service with very little recognition, but with SAV, they not only give you recognition, but they reward you with monthly safety bonuses, driver appreciation, where every driver is recognized for their quality service, and safe driving. I was so shocked when I received "Driver of the Year." It is a great feeling at the age of 50 to receive such an award.

It is hard to be a woman in the truck driving profession. I am glad to see more and more of us out on the road. It's about time woman get acknowledged in this industry. Thank you. It's great to be a 'Woman in Trucking.'

*by Terry Lee Alberter, Owner-Operator*

## The SAV Transportation Group recognizes Terry Alberter as 2010 Driver of the Year



*Terry Alberter with SAV Owners Mike Abbott, Don Divine, and Joe Speltz (L-R)*

In alignment with Driver Appreciation Week, the SAV Transportation Group has named TERRY ALBERTER as their 2010 Driver of the Year.

Each year an interdepartmental selection committee selects SAV's Driver of the Year based on a six key criteria. Alberter was named SAV's 2010 driver of the year for her clean driving record, outstanding performance and exemplary customer service.

"We're both excited and honored to announce this award, said Matt Hill (Fleet Operations Manager and member of SAV's selection committee), Terry is a true professional, who takes pride in her work and

is willing to go the extra mile for both our company and our customers."

Based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the SAV Transportation Group is a 3rd party logistics provider that specializes in the design, development, and deployment of efficient and effective supply chains. They have their own fleet, a comprehensive brokerage division, and an award-winning e-commerce platform.

To learn more about the SAV Transportation Group and/or inquire about a specific transportation solution, you may contact Steven Haas (Director of Business Development) at 612-296-1806 or reach him online at: [shaas@savtrans.com](mailto:shaas@savtrans.com).