

## *“Hand me that tool, please”*

*Written by Colleen Kildow*

“Hand me that tool please.” I can still hear the echo of my dad’s words in my ears. We spent many hours working on the busses at a private school I attended for my first eight years of schooling. My dad was a cement truck driver for a local company out of Mt. Vernon, WA. He would always tell me stories about how he had kept himself safe on the road and what I should do to keep my equipment safe so that I too will not break down alongside the road.



*Colleen’s Dad*

Many times we would go back East when I was little and he would drive a new bus back to western Washington. The years of traveling in those busses, seeing the scenery, and smelling those diesel fumes have always stuck in my mind. The freedom of the road inspired me, so when I turned 19 years old, I went into the Army and joined a transportation division. Our job in that division was to transport troops to and from the field. Three years later I got out of the military and started raising my family.

After my kids grew up, I went back to school to get my CDL. I went out on the

line for four years for Gordon Trucking out of Pacific, WA. Along the way out on the road I met some wonderful helpful drivers and saw some awesome scenery. Last year I came in off the line and I am now driving local.



*Colleen Kildow*

Throughout the years in the military and also the last four years at Gordon Trucking I have trained many students to go out on their own. I have instilled in them the same safety rules my dad handed down to me and each one of my students have done an awesome job of keeping safe. One of my students has become a trainer himself. He told me that he too has told his students the things I have taught my students and they too have learned the same pattern of safety. Safety is not something a person takes for granted it takes patience and work wherever life leads you. Whether at home or on the road, being aware of your surroundings and anticipating any problems before they happen can really help us all to have a better day.

Dad is gone now but his words still live on. Thank you dad for a job well done.