

## Women In Trucking Association honors female drivers at “Salute to Women Behind the Wheel!”

March 29, 2010

Louisville, KY: The Women In Trucking (WIT) Association’s “Salute to the Women Behind the Wheel” brought together nearly 300 female professional drivers at the Mid-America Trucking Show in Louisville, KY last Saturday, March 27.

While the event did not break the Guinness World Record for the largest gathering of female drivers, it did create an opportunity to recognize the success of female drivers in the industry. It generated an atmosphere of excitement and also gave the participants a chance to network and socialize.



Photo by Paul Hartley/Add Media

A total of 290 women traveled from 39 states and two provinces. As they entered the room for the celebration they were greeted by loud applause and cheers from the sponsors, WIT board of directors and other volunteers who then handed them each a bag filled with gifts.

Anne Ferro, Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration thanked the group for their years of service and dedication to safety. “Women not only belong in trucking, but we make trucking better,” said Ferro, “Women can raise the bar for the industry with exceptional skills and dedication to safe driving practices.”

Ferro added, “There are still challenges. Setting goals and breaking barriers isn’t easy, and organizations like Women In Trucking make individual women stronger by helping women support each other.” WIT President Ellen Voie urged the drivers to join the organization and bring one person to next year’s event so the record of 416 set in 2004 by an “all women’s” truck convoy in the Netherlands could be broken.

Gift certificates were presented to 104 women who had achieved safe driving records, and Ferro greeted each one with a handshake as they posed for a photo with the administrator. Fourteen women were honored for reaching three-million accident free miles; 29 women attained two-million and the remaining 61 female drivers had each driven more than one-million miles without an accident.

Female professional drivers and their immediate family members were invited and were not required to be members of Women In Trucking. The group was estimated at 700 participants, who included members of WIT and families of the drivers, but the drivers were easy to identify in their bright red commemorative t-shirts.

“One of the goals of Women In Trucking Association is to celebrate the success of women in the industry,” said Voie, “and this event was designed to honor the women who chose a career in a male dominated environment.”

Photos of the event can be viewed and purchased at [www.flickr.com/photos/22271890@N07/sets/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/22271890@N07/sets/). T-shirts are available for \$10 (includes shipping) while supplies last by contacting Women In Trucking [info@womenintrucking.org](mailto:info@womenintrucking.org) or 888-464-9482.

Gold level sponsors for the event were Freightliner Trucks, Frito-Lay and Walmart. Silver level sponsor was U S Xpress. Bronze sponsors included Internet Truckstop, McGriff, Seibels, & Williams, Owner Operator DIRECT and UPS Freight. Copper sponsors were American Trucking Associations, Inc., Badger Trailer & Equipment Corp., Pitt Ohio Express, J J Keller & Associates, Inc.

Nickel sponsors were American Defense Lawyers, Greatwide Dedicated Transport, Healthy Trucking Association of America, International Trucking School, Pepsi Bottling Company, Rand McNally, Roadside Medical Clinics and YRC Worldwide.