



Vicky Calhoun Retirement!

After more than 23 years of committed service, Vicky Calhoun is set to retire from MTS. Throughout her tenure as a driver, Vicky has made a remarkable impact through her numerous achievements, including being named driver of the month on several occasions, as well as receiving the corporate driver of the month award.

Vicky became a part of MTS in 2002 and quickly earned a reputation for her reliability. Her attendance record has consistently been exemplary. She demonstrates efficiency by consistently completing her routes in less time than required, while also taking excellent care of her assigned equipment. For many years, Vicky has also contributed by training new drivers, addressing their inquiries, instructing them on logs, and conducting road tests and ride-alongs.

Congratulations Vicky Calhoun
on your retirement!



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Colleagues recognize Vicky for her cheerful disposition, infectious laughter, warm smile, and her affection for animals, particularly cats. Her presence brightens the room, making it hard not to smile and engage in conversation with her.

Vicky is well-known among many, having forged numerous friendships throughout her career. Even shippers and dock/office personnel on her routes eagerly anticipate her visits.

As Vicky prepares for retirement, she intends to tackle home projects and spend quality time with her dog, Cashis.

Her absence will be felt both in the office and around the yard; she is truly one of the most genuine and sincere individuals I have ever had the honor of knowing.

Congratulations, Vicky, on a well-deserved retirement! Wishing you joy in this exciting new chapter!

Friendsgiving Event!

Bay Logistics, who is affiliated with MTS, hosted a fantastic Friendsgiving event at their Battle Creek Distribution Center. Lorie Brown, the Distribution Center Manager, made all the food from scratch. She did an excellent job organizing the event to celebrate Thanksgiving. Lorie welcomed the Battle Creek employees along with their family members to join in the celebration. She aimed to show her gratitude to the employees for their hard work and commitment throughout the past year.

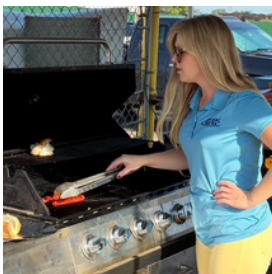




National Truck Driver Appreciation Week

MTS and Bay Logistics celebrated Driver Appreciation Week by grilling up hot dogs and hamburgers with all the fixings at their Flint Dort Highway outdoor rack yard!

Amy Golembowski and Ben Render from Bay took charge of the grill and made sure the drivers felt right at home! The drivers showed their gratitude in a big way! Huge thanks to all the drivers for everything you do!





What To Expect In Trucking In 2026

www.truckhaters.com

The trucking industry is shifting gears once again. 2026 is shaping up to be a pivotal year. With economic headwinds, evolving technology, and regulatory uncertainty, fleets across the country are bracing for what's next. Whether you're a fleet operator, a tire installer, here's what you need to know about where the industry is headed.

1. The Freight Market: Flat, But Stabilizing

After years of volatility, 2026 will likely see a more balanced supply and demand curve. Many small carriers exited the market in 2024 and 2025 due to low spot rates and high operational costs. That means fewer trucks chasing the same loads—which could push rates slightly higher. But don't expect a boom. The freight economy is stabilizing, not soaring.

What it means for you: Shipping might get a little more expensive—but not enough to trigger major capacity growth.

2. Aging Fleets, Slim Replacements

Due to the high cost of new equipment and economic caution, many fleets have put truck replacements on hold. That means more aging trucks on the road—some running well past their ideal lifecycle.

Expect:

- More breakdowns
- Higher maintenance costs
- Continued demand for tire services and roadside support

3. Electric Trucks? Not Yet

There's plenty of buzz around electric trucks—but don't expect to see them dominate the highways in 2026. While ports and local delivery fleets are testing zero-emission models, widespread adoption is still slowed by high costs, limited range, and charging infrastructure that just isn't ready.

4. Autonomous Trucks Are Rolling... Slowly

Companies like Aurora and Kodiak are logging thousands of driverless miles in places like Texas, but this tech is still in its infancy. Full-blown autonomous trucking across the country? That's still years away.

What to expect in 2026: More testing, more headlines—but still a human behind most wheels.

5. Driver Shortages and Incentives

The driver shortage isn't going away anytime soon. Even with the introduction of tax incentives and training programs, the industry continues to struggle to attract and retain talent.

What fleets are doing:

- Offering signing bonuses
- * Upgrading sleeper cabs
- Relying on tech to monitor and optimize driver performance

6. AI in the Cab, Not Driving the Truck

While fully autonomous trucks are still rare, AI tools are increasingly being used to:

- Monitor driver fatigue
- Predict mechanical failures
- Analyze fuel usage and route efficiency

Bottom line: Tech is making life easier for drivers and dispatchers—but it's not replacing them (yet).



7. Rail Is Back on the Radar

Rail freight is making a comeback. Mergers and investments are expanding coast-to-coast service, making it a real competitor to long-haul trucking. This could shift certain freight segments away from trucks—especially for high-volume, low-margin routes.



Final Thoughts: 2026 Is a Year of Holding the Line
2026 isn't about radical change—it's about adaptation. Fleets will focus on:

- Extending the life of their equipment
- Cutting unnecessary costs
- Improving efficiency with smart tech
- Preparing (but not overcommitting) for the next wave of electric and autonomous trucks



July Corporate Driver Of The Month **(Patty Parrish)**



Martin Transportation Systems wishes to congratulate Patty Parrish from our Flint, MI terminal for becoming Corporate Driver of the Month for July 2025.

"Patty does an excellent job for MTS, she always has a smile, is always on time and is safe with everything she does. The customers and other drivers all speak highly of her," said Terminal Manager Mike Eddy.

Thank you Patty for your hard work and dedication!

August Corporate Driver Of The Month **(Robin Robrahn)**



Martin Transportation Systems wishes to congratulate Robin Robrahn from our Grand Rapids, MI terminal for becoming Corporate Driver of the Month for August 2025.

"Robin is always willing to help, flexible with her schedule, thrives to pick up and deliver on time and puts extra attention on pre and post trip inspections," said Regional Vice President TJ Bottom.

Thank you Robin for your hard work and dedication!

July Terminal Drivers Of The Month!

Help us congratulate the finalists who are named Terminal Drivers of the Month for July 2025.

CONGRATULATIONS!

- Brian Spicer - Bertrand, MO
- Christopher Georgel - Bowling Green, KY
- Elliott Mitchell - Windsor, ON
- Tony Willyard - Cleveland, OH
- Jolayn Walker - Dayton, OH
- Larry Woods - Detroit, MI
- Darryl Clark - Flint, MI
- Ray Estrada - Grand Prairie, TX
- Philip Marks - Grand Rapids, MI
- Jeremy Taylor - Indianapolis, IN
- Johnnie Rusler - Kansas City, KS
- Jeffrey Brace - Lansing, MI
- Jeffrey Guillory - Louisville, KY
- Peter Mohan - Marion, IN
- Byron Powers - Marshall, MI
- Prossie Anderson - Michigan City, IN
- Matthew Gauthier - Port Huron, MI
- Hounare Gnanta - Riverton, IL
- Walter Ervin - Spring Hill, TN
- James Hollway - St. Louis, MO
- Gerald Matuszynski - Toledo, OH
- Roger Drinnon - White Pine, TN

These drivers will receive a Driver of the Month certificate. They will still be eligible in the coming months to win Corporate Driver of the Month, as long as they continue to meet the criteria.

August Terminal Drivers Of The Month!

Help us congratulate the finalists who are named Terminal Drivers of the Month for August 2025.

CONGRATULATIONS!

- John Costello - Bertrand, MO
- Victor Steen - Bowling Green, KY
- Karandeep Dadiala - Windsor, ON
- Jeremy Taylor - Indianapolis, IN
- Edward McGuire - Cleveland, OH
- Edward Daniels - Columbia, TN
- Jeffery Fugate - Dayton, OH
- Larry Woods - Detroit, MI
- Quontez Cummings - Flint, MI
- Ray Estrada - Grand Prairie, TX
- Robin Robrahn - Grand Rapids, MI
- Charles Jenkins - Kansas City, KS
- Jeffrey Brace - Lansing, MI
- Jeffrey Guillory - Louisville, KY
- Greg Shafer - Marion, IN
- Robert Nicholls - Marshall, MI
- Prossie Anderson - Michigan City, IN
- Duane Wahl - Port Huron, MI
- Elizabeth Sanders - Riverton, IL
- James Hollway - St. Louis, MO
- Gerald Matuszynski - Toledo, OH
- Roger Drinnon - White Pine, TN

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Halloween Costume Contest

MTS took part in a delightful Halloween Costume contest. Numerous employees got dressed up. Everyone enjoyed showcasing their favorite costumes.

