

2011 Maintenance Professional of the Year

Our recipient of the Maintenance Professional of the Year award began his career in 1959 as an aircraft mechanic working on spy planes for the United States Air Force. After the Cuban Missile Crisis he was transferred to a C130 Troop Carrier Group as a Flying Crew Chief.

After his discharge from the Air Force in 1964 he took a job as a mechanic for Railway Express in Memphis. In 1966 he became a foreman for Railway Express in Savannah Ga. In 1967 he was promoted to manager of the larger Railway Express shop in St. Louis Mo. In 1968 he was again promoted to District Manager at corporate office in Chicago, IL.

He had always wanted to be in business for himself and in 1969 he moved back to Memphis and opened Transportation Equipment Services to provide repair services to the 'piggy-back' industry in the area. He started with mobile units and eventually opened a full service trailer shop.

After some rocky economic times in the 70's he closed his shop. He bought a truck and went trucking until 1992 when he sold it and joined his current company managing their tire and detail departments. Soon after he found himself managing all shop functions as Director of Maintenance.

He has served our country and our industry his entire working career. He has gained the respect of and always enjoyed a great working relationship with owners, managers, drivers and vendors.

Please join me in recognizing the Maintenance Professional of the Year, from Ozark Motor Lines, Jerry Hodge.