

Good afternoon distinguished Road Knight members. It is our honour to be invited to this luncheon to celebrate your 20th anniversary.

My name is Donna Jursa and my father, John Loughheed, was a Road Knight member from 2007-2009. He was a man of humble beginnings and his path took him away from completing his secondary education during his teen years. However, my father always believed in the advantage of education. His desired to show his three children the importance of an education, he spent eighteen years achieving his high school diploma through correspondence courses. Many nights in the seat or bed of his rig or at the dock of a shipper/receiver, he would pour over course material and study for tests.

During his 47 year career in the trucking industry, my father was a company driver, an instructor for Humber College and a driver trainer for Erb Transport. My dad's professionalism was highly respected in all facets of his career and he took his role of educator very seriously, ensuring that students learned proper techniques and respected the industry as a whole. He was never one for short cuts.

My father was extremely honoured to be nominated, let alone be one of the few selected transport drivers to represent this amazing association. I can recall the pride in his voice when he told us that he had been selected to represent the Road Knights. To my dad, this accreditation was more than just being a member of an elite group, it was a privilege to reach out to young people and promote an industry so vital to our economy and survival. It was an opportunity for him to educate the public on the importance of safety within his industry and diminish the public's fear of transport trucks.

I remember being with him once in Midland during a career fair. Watching my dad promote his love for this industry, encouraging students who thought truck driving was a 'dropout' kind of job to rethink their perspective. He would express the beauty of the countryside, the interesting people you encounter daily and the importance of safe driving practices. His biggest joy was when he would take his truck to schools and let the children climb inside to see what it was like to be a truck driver. Erb Transport was always so gracious in accommodating my father's schedule so that he could fulfill his Road Knight duties.

Although his tenure was only two years in duration, my father continued to promote the Road Knight philosophy beyond his employment with Erb Transport and into his retirement.

My father passed away on October 4th of this year. How appropriate for him to depart us on National Truckers Day (10/4). May the Road Knights continue to promote road safety, the importance of the transport industry and educate our youth on opportunities within this industry.

Congratulations to those men & women who are lucky enough to be chosen for this incredible organization and thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

Thank you,

