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HOT

On the road again, and again, and again ...

By BRIAN BREHM The Winchester Star
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Nevin Brill, a pickup and delivery driver for the XPO transportation company in Winchester, was rewarded with this personalized company truck after he surpassed 3 million miles of driving in July. That distance is roughly equivalent to six round trips to the moon or 120 laps around the equator.

BRIAN BREHM/The Winchester Star

Nevin Brill is a man on the go. The pick up and delivery driver has worked for nearly 36 years at the XPO transportation company in Winchester and, in that time, has driven more than 3 million miles.

Let's put that in perspective.

Three million miles equates to more than six voyages to the moon and back, 120 trips around the equator or 114,422 marathons.

Brill, a Winchester resident, isn't the type of person who touts his accomplishments, which is why he didn't know he had passed the 3-million-mile-mark on July 17 until the company told him so.

"I don't keep count," the 71-year-old said nonchalantly. "I am doing something I've always wanted to do."

What makes Brill's accomplishment even more amazing is that he's not a long-haul truck driver. His delivery and pick up routes with XPO have kept him within the region from the Northern Shenandoah Valley to Manassas.

More astounding yet is that Brill has logged that astronomical number of miles without ever receiving a ticket for a traffic violation or being involved in an accident.

No one is more impressed by Brill's accomplishments than his boss, Winchester XPO Service Center Manager James Thompson.

"It's awesome that you can enjoy what you do and be that good at it, too," Thompson said.

XPO is based in Greenwich, Connecticut, and has nearly 600 branch locations around the world. In North America, it is the second-largest provider of LTL (less-than-truckload) transportation services, and in the United States, XPO pick ups and deliveries are available in 99% of the country's ZIP codes.

"There are very few things we won't haul," Brill said.

Brill, a lifelong Winchester resident, graduated from Handley High School in 1974, then worked at Avtex Fibers in Front Royal and at a local grocery store before becoming a trucker in 1990.

"I grew up around trucks," said Brill, whose father, Russell Brill, and brother, Russell Brill Jr., were both truck drivers. "I like driving, and I also like being around people. In this job, you need to do both."

Driving is in the Brill family's blood. In addition to his dad and brother, Brill said he has a nephew, Jeff Brill, who also drives a truck.

"He's a pretty good truck driver, too," Brill said. "I see him on the road sometimes."

Brill's driving career didn't begin with XPO because, when he came aboard in 1990, the company's Winchester office at 700 N. Cameron St. was known as Con-way Freight. XPO bought Con-way in 2015, which is the same year that Brill passed the 2-million-mile-mark.

Brill said he pulls a 45-foot trailer for XPO, which is a lot of vehicle to maneuver through narrow streets and alleys in commercial and residential districts.

"It takes practice," he said about operating a big rig in busy cities like Manassas and Winchester. "You've got to be very alert of your surroundings."

The importance of being aware while driving, Brill said, is because many other drivers and pedestrians aren't paying attention.

"When most people are walking, they're on their cellphone or something," he said. "When I see a car, that could be my family in there. I want them to get home safe because I want my family safe."

Another reason Brill drives safely and courteously, he said, is because "I want to honor the company I work for because it's a moving billboard." His hope is that other people on the road will give more thought to their own driving habits, and that they'll hold XPO in higher regard because its drivers are safety-conscious and considerate.

Brill has tested his driving skills over the years at the [Virginia Trucking Association's](#) annual Virginia Truck Driving Championship and been crowned with the top title on several occasions, including the 2015 competition in Chester.

"You get humbled because you're around the best of the best," Brill said, noting he has become a better driver by watching his competitors at the event also referred to as a rodeo.

True to form, Brill didn't say much about his accomplishments at the state truck rodeos, but he was quick to point out that a coworker at XPO in Winchester, Mike Stickley, won the [American Trucking Association's](#) National Truck Driving Championship in the four-axle van (trailer) category in 2009.

Brill said he prefers being a pick up and delivery driver rather than a long-haul trucker.

"Here, you're off every weekend," he said, which has allowed him to spend more time with his wife of 49 years, Kay, and their two now-adult children. "Your family is what you work for and what you're most proud of."

Brill said he loves working for XPO for many reasons, among them the way it supports its people.

"The company takes large steps toward making things safer," he said, including specialized driver training courses and the use of on-board cameras. "It's a good thing."

And XPO loves having Brill as an employee. After he reached and surpassed the 3-million-mile-mark in July, the company presented him with a new work truck for his exclusive use. XPO even personalized it by putting his name and accomplishment on both doors.

"Nobody else can drive it," Brill said with a smile. "It has my name on it."

While Brill has already surpassed Social Security's highest retirement qualification age of 70, he's not ready to hand in his keys and while away the days with Kay, who has already retired.

"I'm in pretty good shape for my age," he said. "This is a very physical job because you have to unload the truck and stuff. It gives you plenty of exercise."

Brill's reluctance to retire is music to the ears of his boss.

"Nevin has been a model employee, a role model for all the generations of truckers that have come through here," said Thompson, who oversees a fleet of 40 drivers. "You don't get to 3 million miles by accident. He made it a personal intention every single day to make safety his top priority. That's how he's lived his life, too."

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