

Eddie Walker, President, Best Used Trucks, and a long-time member and leader at the Used Truck Association, was the recipient of this year's Marvin F. Gordon LifeTime Achievement Award. The award was presented at UTA's 11<sup>th</sup> annual UTA convention, held in Jacksonville, FL November 3 through November 6.

Al Hess, last year's recipient, presented this year's award to Walker. In his remarks, Al shared both highlights of Eddie's remarkable 62 year-tenure in the truck business, and also his own personal recollections of Eddie's many fine attributes as a man and a friend. Here's a brief look at just some of Eddie's accomplishments over his long and storied career.

Eddie Walker started his "career" at the tender age of six when he eagerly responded to his father's call, "Hey boy, crawl under here and hand me that wrench." That simple act was enough to keep the youngster engaged in his father's trucking business. Throughout his youth he worked alongside his father, a truck owner/operator. By the time Eddie was 20 years old, he and his father owned a fleet of 60 trucks hauling sand and gravel for the Texas Highway Department. Eddie was equally comfortable negotiating contracts with Texas state officials in Austin or still getting covered with grease as he helped a mechanic.

In 1986, Eddie joined Dallas Peterbilt as the Used Truck Manager, and his professional career has grown steadily since then. In the years that followed, Eddie worked for Arrow Trucks and Rush Trucks, becoming President and owner of Best Used Trucks in 2001. Today, Eddie is still happily at work. These years have been filled with a variety of achievements and awards.

Since 1991, Eddie has been a member of the prestigious Blue Book National Advisory Group. He received the National Truck Professional of the Year award. His company Best Used Trucks received the Tarrant County Small Business of the Year and the Truck Blue Book Independent Dealer of The Year Award.

In 1996, Eddie became Vice President of the UTA and through motivation and energy he expanded the association's membership and the benefits available to its members. He encouraged and worked on new committees including; Ethics, Membership Training,

Convention, Website and Public Relations. Eddie was instrumental in the decision to have the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention in 2000.

In 2001, he became the President of the UTA calling for increased communication through the Newsletter, adding benefits, and building membership. Under his leadership, more committees were created to add benefits to the UTA. They are Education, Endowment and Finance. As President of the UTA, Eddie has been the driving force in building the association to its present level of membership, formulating a policy of partnerships with major manufacturer and affiliates in the industry to provide benefits and services to its members, and formulating a Policy and Procedure Manual that guides the UTA forward in its endeavors.

Eddie's kindness outside of the office is at least as legendary as his devotion to the used truck industry. Eddie is a 32<sup>nd</sup> degree Mason, and the back of his business card reads: "Perform a service worthy of being remembered." To that end, Eddie has volunteered in his community, actively engaged in his children's lives, and devoted himself to creating a better life for others. He taught Sunday school for many years, and he volunteers with the Special Olympics. Recently, Eddie worked with a young college student from France who was hoping to make her father's dream come true. After more than 30 years as a truck driver in France, he was planning to come visit his daughter. Eddie worked with the young woman so that he could finally drive an American truck. Eddie and his staff celebrated the day of the big surprise with balloons, a cake, and lots of hoopla! Combining his devotion to his industry with his devotion to his community makes it a pleasure for UTA to recognize such a fine and vital member of their organization.

The UTA's annual *Marvin F. Gordon Lifetime Achievement Award* recognizes individuals who have made numerous and significant contributions to the used truck industry. To be eligible to qualify for the Award, a candidate must have:

- A proven career record of accomplishments within the used truck industry.
- Demonstrated their capacity for maintaining the highest business practices and standards.
- Advanced the goals and objectives promoted by the UTA.

The Used Truck Association is an impartial organization comprised of used truck professionals and associated businesses committed to strengthening the used truck industry.

The organization is dedicated to providing a source of direction in the areas of professionalism and ethics, while promoting the highest standards of service and conduct. The UTA provides a platform to foster the sharing of knowledge and supply resources to support the efforts of those involved in the Used Truck industry. For more information, visit [UTA.org](http://UTA.org).

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