



## “NEWS & VIEWS”

A publication of The Machinery Haulers Association, Inc.

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### **2021 Annual Meeting Coming Up Soon!**

Scheduled for April 7-9 at the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel on the world-famous San Antonio River Walk, is our 2021 Annual Meeting. Online registration and hotel reservations will be available on the TMHA website at [www.machineryhaulers.org](http://www.machineryhaulers.org) in the next week or two and we will notify you immediately when they are up on the site. Members have been “meeting-starved” for way too long now and we think this will be the perfect time to break out and have a great meeting experience again. We have got some excellent speakers lined up, are working to bring in more, and we have a couple of surprise events planned as well. This really will be a great meeting and we are expecting it to be one of our very best. Also, don't forget, the awards for the TMHA 2020 Truck Fleet Safety Contest will be awarded at the meeting! More information will be coming forth in the upcoming weeks so stay tuned. It promises to be an exciting meeting!

### **TMHA's 2021 Truck Fleet Safety Contest**

Under normal circumstances, we would be talking now about getting entries ready to submit for our 2021 Truck Fleet Safety Contest. Of course, Covid-19 threw sand in the gears concerning scheduling of nearly everything. As mentioned above, we will be presenting the 2020 awards at the upcoming Annual meeting. The 2021 awards will be presented at our annual Safety & Security meeting in early September. That will give plenty of time to get entry information out to you and your safety personnel after the Annual meeting and well in advance of the Safety & Security meeting. As always, we hope to have 100% participation in this year's contest when the time comes to roll it out.

### **2021 Membership Dues Remittances**

Invoices for 2021 TMHA Membership Dues were sent in November and we had requested that remittances be made by February 1, 2021. Most of our members have already paid and have been sent paid receipts. Thank you to those many members for your support and getting on this quickly. Those few that have not yet made their remittance, we will appreciate receiving yours by February 1. We know last year was been a difficult one in so many ways. We pledge to do all we can to make 2021 a better year for TMHA and we are working hard to put together a pair of meetings for you that you will find to be exceptional. We are now 30 members strong and have a very dedicated and loyal membership base. It is our goal to retain all current members and to move forward adding a number of new members during this year. Thank you in advance for your remittance and continued support.

## **Bennett Delivers Wreaths to Honor Fallen Veterans at Andersonville National Cemetery**



MCDONOUGH, GEORGIA (January 5, 2021) – The Bennett Family of Companies and the Taylor Family Foundation recently honored fallen veterans at

Andersonville National Cemetery for the holiday season by laying over 10,971 wreaths during National Wreaths Across America Day on Saturday, December 19, 2020.



The week began with five Bennett drivers going to Columbia Falls, Maine to pick up wreaths from the Worcester Wreath Company, the founders of the Wreaths Across America organization. They joined truckers who delivered more than 2.2 million wreaths to 2,175 participating locations throughout the country, all committed to the mission to **Remember, Honor and Teach.**

Thank you TMHA member, Bennett Motor Express, for participating again in this extremely worthwhile project to honor our nation's fallen heroes.

## **XL Specialized Trailers to Expand Facility, Add Jobs**



MANCHESTER, Iowa – XL Specialized Trailers, a national leader in custom, heavy haul trailers, is planning a \$6 to \$7 million expansion to its headquarters in Manchester, Iowa. The expansion will increase production capacity by over 30 percent. The new development, which will be underway at the end of 2020 or early 2021, will add roughly 55,000 square feet to the north side of its current manufacturing footprint. Construction is scheduled to be completed by the end of '21.

The growth at XL is not limited to the facility. The expansion will also allow room to add many new positions to the company. Currently the manufacturer has hundreds of people on its team with plans to add 65 new jobs to the small eastern Iowa city of nearly 5,000 residents.

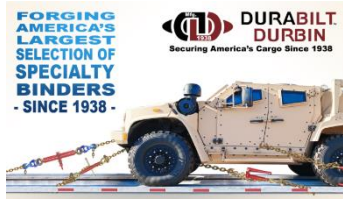
"Increasing our space and adding more team members positions us to serve our customers better than ever before," said Stuart Sleper, president and CEO of XL Specialized Trailers. "We will be well positioned for growth in the market and reduce lead times on our products." A record sales year in 2019 has allowed XL to power through the COVID-19 pandemic despite what the market indicates as a 45 percent drop in the low-bed trailer industry in 2020.

"We're fortunate to have a diversified portfolio in the industries we serve with some sectors performing better than others," said Sleper. "At the moment, we have a backlog and strong order activity. We also are fortunate to have the best dealership network in the industry and a loyal customer following. When the economy bounces back, we'll be able to take advantage of our expansion in production capacity."

Because of its recent financial health, XL has plans for community outreach and support. "We've never really been active as a community partner before, and we'd like to change that," said Sleper. "We want to be the employer of choice in the area, and also be recognized as a helpful partner in our city and community. XL Specialized Trailers has big plans, and we are excited for the future."

For more information on XL Specialized Trailers, visit [www.xlspecializedtrailer.com](http://www.xlspecializedtrailer.com).

## **Durabilt Debuts a Series of Game-changing New Load Binders**



Durabilt by Durbin, the successor of Durbin Durco and a recent new member of TMHA, continues to innovate leading load-binders with its vast and historical industry experience, amidst the challenges of the pandemic. Durabilt has a wide selection of binders specifically engineered for unique and unusual applications taking into concern weather issues, etc. Durabilt by Durbin continues to seek out new and innovative solutions that cater to an ever-growing market and its needs

and changes. Durabilt welcomes inquiries regarding special and unique applications. They are available at 708-223-0258 and [info@durabiltusa.com](mailto:info@durabiltusa.com)

## **Calendar of Upcoming TMHA Events**

### **2021 Spring Meeting - April 7 - 9**

#### **TMHA Annual Meeting**

**Venue: Marriott Rivercenter Hotel**

**San Antonio, Texas**

***"On the famed San Antonio River Walk!"***



### **2021 Fall Meeting – September 8-10**

#### **TMHA Safety & Security Meeting**

**Venue: Grand Geneva Resort & Spa**

**Lake Geneva, Wisconsin**



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