



TAXICAB, LIMOUSINE &
PARATRANSIT ASSOCIATION

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

For further information, please contact:
Al LaGasse, TLPA Executive Vice President, (301) 946-5701
Margie Wilcox, Mobile Bay Transportation Company, (251) 633-5693

David E. Robinson, Chauffeur, Mobile Bay Transportation Co., Mobile, Alabama Is TLPA 2004 Limousine & Sedan Chauffeur of the Year

Award winner has logged over 40 years of accident-free driving

KENSINGTON, MD — David E. Robinson, chauffeur for Mobile Bay Transportation Company of Mobile, Alabama, has been named the Taxicab, Limousine & Paratransit Association's 2004 Limousine & Sedan Chauffeur of the Year. He was presented with this award on Friday, November 5, at the General Session at TLPA's 86th Annual Convention & Trade Show in Orlando, Florida. For winning this award, Mr. Robinson received an expenses-paid trip to Orlando, a plaque and a check for \$300.

With over 150,000 member company drivers from which to choose, TLPA's Awards Committee selected Mr. Robinson to receive this prestigious annual award for his professionalism and dedication to safety, his passengers, his company and his industry.

David Robinson was born and raised in Thomasville, Alabama. In 1956, when he was 18, David moved with his family to Mobile, and got a job as a skycap at Mobile Airport. "During the time I was working as a skycap, my father also was working at the airport as a driver," he says. "He was injured in a vehicle accident, causing him to no longer be able to drive, which created an opening for a driver. I was moved to a driver position at that time. ... With the exception of the short time as a skycap, my entire career has been driving."

David has worked for Mobile Bay Transportation for 25 years. "In the past, the ground transportation for the Mobile Airport was contracted to local vendors," he says. "Each time the bid was let, I went to work for the company that was awarded the contract. I worked for four companies through the years, the last one being Mobile Bay Transportation 25 years ago. Mobile Bay is a good place to work. Margie (Wilcox, Mobile Bay Transportation president) is a very nice person and I enjoy working for her."

David Robinson holds the distinction of over 40 years of accident-free driving. In that time period, he has driven approximately 4 million vehicle miles transporting 100,000 passengers. Because of his safety record, professionalism and commitment, David is looked to by his co-workers as a source of information and experience.

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One thing David Robinson enjoys about life as a chauffeur is the opportunity to meet many people. In his lengthy career, he has had some interesting experiences. "When the Jackson Five performed in Mobile, I not only transported them to and from the airport, but the entire time they were in Mobile," David says.

When Elvis Presley performed in Mobile shortly before his death, David Robinson picked up his manager, Colonel Parks, from the airport to take him to his hotel. When Colonel Parks decided he'd like to see a little of the city, David gave him a tour and took him out to lunch at a local restaurant.

The changes that David has seen over the course of his career include transportation companies starting to use stretch limousines in the 1970s, the change from taxicabs only being permitted to drop off people at the airport to them being permitted to both drop off and pick up, and the decrease in the number of carriers coming into the Mobile Airport. "I remember when there were more airlines flying into Mobile," David says. "For example, Capital Airlines, Southern Airways and National Airlines."

Another change he has seen is an increase in airport security, which he sees as both good and bad. "The increased security is better, but it's also worse. It makes it more difficult to pick up passengers," he says.

David Robinson thinks the qualities needed to be a good chauffeur include being courteous, prompt and responsible, and enjoying driving and meeting people. On being awarded this year's Limousine & Sedan Chauffeur of the Year, David says, "I'm very honored to have won."

David Robinson has five children and nine grandchildren. In his spare time, he enjoys watching greyhound racing.

The Taxicab, Limousine & Paratransit Association is the industry association representing taxicab, limousine, sedan, airport shuttle, paratransit, Medicaid, and nonemergency medical fleets worldwide. In existence since 1917, the association makes its headquarters in Kensington, Maryland, a suburb of Washington, D.C. TLPA has over 1,000 corporate members that operate over 100,000 passenger vehicles and transport over 2 million passengers each day. TLPA's Annual Operator of the Year Awards recognize excellence and exemplary practices among its membership.

Trade Press: Please note we have this press release in several formats, as well as a high-resolution photo of Mr. Robinson, available for download on our web site at www.tlpa.org.

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