

Driver in the Spotlight



2017 StoneBridge Rookie of The Year

Bill Gamble

In the fall of 2016, StoneBridge Trucking was starting to catch a glimpse into its future. The customer base was growing, processes were being improved, and the fleet was receiving some much needed updates. With all the progress that was being made, one key component to a successful logistics company was proving to be a challenge; as felt throughout the industry: FIND SOLID **DEPENDABLE, COMPETENT DRIVERS** that will provide the service required by StoneBridge and demanded by its customers.

Later that fall, an ad was ran in all of the local newspapers searching for drivers that would fit the StoneBridge Trucking employment model. A week after the ad was run, Bill Gamble reached out to StoneBridge CEO Shane Kennedy to introduce himself via telephone. Kennedy liked what he heard. "Bill was impressive, he had a successful history of hard work in the logistics and manufacturing industry, and seemed confident to drive a straight truck. With this, he had served his country. I was comfortable giving him a shot, but was uncertain that StoneBridge was a good fit for his needs at that point in his life". Both discussed the pros and cons of the job and Bill took some time to evaluate the opportunity with his wife. A few days later, Kennedy received a call from Bill "My wife and I discussed this opportunity. We really like what you are doing with veterans and I would like to give this a go". Little did Kennedy know at the time, but he had just hired StoneBridge Trucking's first

"ROOKIE OF THE YEAR",

an honor given to a StoneBridge Operator within their first year accounting for safety, miles driven, and many other numerous factors in which StoneBridge holds paramount.

Behind the company are people. Know the people - Know the person -Know the company.

Bill Gamble was

born on December 15th. 1959 in Rockford, IL. His father was a musician and his mother was a housewife. Growing up, Bill had always been called to serve his country. In 1977, upon graduating from high school, Bill enlisted in the US Army. His career in the military would take him to Korea, Texas, Kansas, Panama, Alaska, and Germany while serving in Calvary. Bill could have very well spent a career in the US Army, but he and his then wife experienced something no parent would ever want to experience. "I was in the middle of tactical field exercises in Grafenwoehr, Germany, when I was contacted that I had to be home with my family immediately. The Squadron Commander sent me home in a helicopter to my base in Amberg, Germany." When Bill arrived home, he received the news that his 2 month old daughter had passed away from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Recollecting this life changing event, Bill Gamble remembers it vividly .:



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"It was quite possibly the worst, if not one of the worst moments of my life. I would never wish that experience on any parent or loved



Bill and his wife Debbie have been married since December 5th.

This experience caused an ex-

treme level of stress of pain for Bill, which ulti-

mately took a toll on his marriage and military career. He and his then wife were divorced and after nine years of military service, Bill received an Honorable Discharge from the US Army. He returned to Indiana in which he would eventually marry is wife Debbie on December 5th, 1986. Bill began his career in logistics when he drove a truck for 3 years for Days Express and eventually for Rumpke. Bill finally decided to spend 18 years working for Knauf Insulation which ended due to a knee surgery.

Bill currently holds his AS in Visual Communication and is presently 12 credits away from a BS in Graphic Design. He is a proud husband, father of four, and grandfather of eleven. His daughter Lee is a paralegal and happily married with four boys. His daughter Amanda works in management and is a proud mother to a son. His son Chris works as the Sports Director for the Shelbyville Parks Department and is a proud father of 3. His daughter Carrie is the proud mother of 3.

Since October 2016, Bill has literally and figuratively been "rolling" with StoneBridge Trucking. Once he was in a straight truck, he has never looked back. He has quickly climbed the ladder at StoneBridge and worked extremely hard to earn the honor of the Stone-Bridge Trucking "Rookie of the Year". Shane Kennedy is proud of the decision to bring Bill on board.

"Bill Gamble was my first hire at Stone-Bridge and has proven to be one of the best. We are a better company today than we were then because of all of the hard work Bill has put forth to his job and our company. We are lucky to have him." ~ Shane Kennedy, CEO

Along with being a proud husband, father, and grandfa**ther**, he is also proud to be a professional Operator with a company like StoneBridge.

Bill is the proud grandfather to eleven grandchildren.

"StoneBridge has taken care of me and my family. I feel ap-

preciated as an employee and veteran. Importantly, my family still comes first in their eyes, as they always have in mine."

Past, Present, & Future of StoneBridge



The Operations & Maintenance Center will house up to 15 StoneBridge Box Trucks

In June 2016, Shane Kennedy had just come off Active Duty for the Navy and joined the StoneBridge Trucking Family when then Operations Manager Garry Hadler made it very clear in saying "We need more freight, more customers, and need to offer more capacity and services to our current customers". Having experience in sales, he hit the road. "I was confident I could sell StoneBridge and our services. That is by far the most important part of sales, believing in your product or service. My dad started the company, Garry and the team offered a fantastic service, it was up to me to find the people who would find value in what we offer. "At that time in 2016, Stone-Bridge had 4 total box trucks and 4 cargo vans with a team of 7 total drivers. Kennedy remembers looking at the company and seeing its potential. "We were small but extremely efficient. We were averaging anywhere from 50-70 loads a month and we kept our business model simple. With this, I knew there was plenty of room for growth because our current customers were telling us."

The consistent feedback he was receiving was as follows:

- More availability = more trucks and drivers
- More capacity = more weight
- More services = lift gates on the trucks

Based on this feedback StoneBridge has grown from 4 box trucks & 4 vans to 10 box trucks and 5 vans. They forecast adding an additional 4 - 5 box trucks for an overall fleet growth of 250%. The StoneBridge Team has grown from 7 employees to 25 for an overall growth of 357%. StoneBridge is now averaging 140-175 loads per month for a growth of 258%. With this, the feedback remains the same . . . MORE AVAILABILITY - MORE CAPACITY - MORE SERVICES. "We are still hiring competent drivers who fit our model and are adding a LARGE TANDEM AXLE BOX TRUCK that can haul up to 20,000LBS. In two - three years, we hope to add full size 53ft trucks because OUR CUSTOMERS ARE ASKING US TO DO SO, both old and new."



This growth requires space. We have now located our fleet and maintenance center to a new location only 1 minute away from the StoneBridge Headquarters and Dispatch Center. Kennedy is thrilled to lease this location. "This location came available at a perfect time and is owned by a good trustworthy friend of StoneBridge and my family. It has everything we need to support our growing operation and business model with 3 maintenance bays, storage area, and a cross loading dock.

With this growth comes a high level of responsibility and an understanding of how the logistics industry works. Upon joining StoneBridge, Kennedy did his homework and found the #1 reason logistics companies fail is because they get too big too fast. "The economy is really good right now and our customers have been great to us. But we have to always be planning for when the economy begins to slow down. Our growth has been responsible and our outlook remains positive. We will strive to continue to support our customers for the long term."



The Operations & Maintenance Center will have a dock for storage and cross loading needs.

A STORY OF SERVICE

American Veteran Owned



American Veteran Driven

StoneBridge is proud of its commitment to the service of those who have served and serving. Our company is owned by veterans and is employed by many who have a history of service to



their country.

US Air Force Veteran Terry Hogg

For many men who grew up in the 50's and 60's, they remember it as a great time to be an American. Being a "Baby Boomer" was a great experience for many. A defining element of the 50's was the Cold War, and the 60's proved to be a time of change in America. Growing up during these years would often eventually lead the young men of the United States to make an important decision: Sign up for the US Military or wait to potentially be drafted and sent to Vietnam?

Terry Hogg was born in June of 1953 and grew up in Greensburg, Indiana. In 1971, Terry and his good friend Rob Hood where about to head to Indianapolis to join and saw their friend Jeff Meyer working at a local gas station. Jeff's boss thought he was simply going to lunch, but Jeff was ready to join them. That afternoon, Terry's mom Nelly Hogg took all three boys to Indianapolis to take the military entrance evaluation test.

"Rob and I were supposed to be on the buddy system, it didn't work out that way unfortunately".



In November 1971, Terry Hogg enlisted and took off for the US Air Force to attend Basic Training at Lackland AFB, Texas. Upon graduating basic training, he was sent to Chanute AFB in Rantoul, IL. "It was the coldest weather I had EVER experienced. I hated it. We had to wear leather masks on our face. Definitely lets you know how cold it was and the cold weather technology of the time."

Continued on next page . . .



A STORY OF SERVICE



While at Chanute, Terry trained to work on Aerospace Ground Equipment. Upon graduation from tech school, he was shipped to APO San Francisco where he would find his final destination to be his first permanent duty station: Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City), Vietnam.

"I was 18 years old and found myself in Vietnam. When I arrived and walked off the plane, it felt like I was in an oven. It was such a complete shock and contrast to my experience at Chanute AFB. I had transitioned from what I thought was the coldest place in the world to the hottest. After showering, I would immediately be soaking wet from sweat before I could even dry off."

Terry was in Saigon for nine months when President Nixon stated that the Vietnam War was coming to a "conclusion as a result of the plan that we have instituted." At this point, Terry was flown to Tokay, Thailand where was to spend a total of four months and be eventually sent home. "I was told I was going home, but was rather sent to Tacoma, WA for six months." At this point, Terry decided that he would be willing to go back to Thailand if his service was going to be extended. "I had put in my request and made a voluntary statement that I wanted to serve in Thailand. Ironically, I was advised that if I wanted to go back to Thailand, that I needed to withdraw this statement which lacked all possible logic. Going against my logical reasoning, I withdrew my statement requesting to be stationed in Thailand, and was then assigned to Thailand shortly after. I simply cannot make this up. Anyone who ever served in the military can understand."

SSgt Hogg would spend 13 additional months in Thailand totaling over 560+ days served in Southeast Asia. At one point, Terry hadn't spoken to his parents for over 3 months. The Red Cross was notified and the communication line between Terry and his parents was open once again.

In 1975, SSgt Hogg was honorably discharged from the US Air Force and was sent home. When he returned home, he saw his mom walk by prompting the following conversation:

Son: Who you looking for lady (in jest)?

Mother: I am here to see my son.

Terry was flabbergasted. "She didn't even recognize me. She simply walked right past me. I had grown up. The boy that left her was now a man."

In 1976, Terry was ready for another challenge. He signed a three year enlistment in the Army Reserves as a Sergeant serving as a Field Director Commander (FDC). Terry's time in the Army Reserves was a little bit less eventful. He laughed when sharing the fact that his only deployment in the Army Reserves was to Chicago during the mail strike. Overall, Terry's experience in the military was a positive one that has proven to be something in which would be proud of. "I loved the travel, it made me grow up and mature at a very fast pace." Terry went on to earn a Degree in Architectural Design & Building Construction. After many years raising his family and running the family business, Terry is thrilled to be a part of StoneBridge Trucking which is American Veteran Driven. "I enjoy the work and the people. I really enjoy the customer service aspect of our job, and appreciate the comradery I share with the StoneBridge team and the veterans in its ranks."



WE ARE LOOKING FOR DRIVERS

- . Box Trucks
- . Cargo Vans

StoneBridge Expediting and Small Load Trucking is currently searching for candidates interested in a FLEXIBLE career as Truck Operator.

- Choose your own loads and driving hours
- Choose when you are off duty
- Pay based on experience, licensing, and load types.

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shane.kennedy@stonebridgetrucking.com

Apply at: www.stonebridgetrucking.com