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Vernon Cooper & Roehl-
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Cooper - Continuing to Serve America - **THIS TIME WITH ROEHL.**

"It's tough out there," Vernon Cooper says. "You can see the hard times as you drive through the nation's cities. There are empty parking lots and closed businesses." But Vernon sees something else: trucks on highways & people helping their neighbors. "We haven't given up. We're fighting our way through," he said.

Vernon is upbeat on the future, America's and his as an OTR driver for Roehl Transport. Becoming one wasn't just a job he fell into. It was a mid-life career change he pursued with purpose. "I was looking for something recession-proof and remembered reading that if you had a CDL and a safe driving record, you would never have to go a day without a job." Three years ago at age 39 he researched the industry and gave Roehl Transport a call.

He joined through Roehl's Honor Program (a special recognition for military veterans), got his CDL from the Roehl Driver Training Center (RDTC), and was on the road earning money. One year later the national economy slid into recession, but Vernon has never gone a day without the high miles he needs to earn a top paycheck. "Roehl has a friendly, small company feel, but it's one of the top 100 largest truckload companies in the nation," he explained. It is also one of the most financially stable, best-managed companies with a strong diversified customer base. "Income security even during a downturn... I like that feeling," he said.

Making a major career change with a wife and two children involved some anxiety, Vernon admitted. He reviewed dozens of companies. Now that he's been with Roehl, it's the only company he'll ever drive for. "Roehl keeps its recruiting promises," he said. Two of those stood out: a leading safety record and home time.

"Safety is really important. As a Roehl driver, I have the final call on matters of road safety, but I also have an entire company dedicated to protecting me. As for home time, Roehl has the best options," Vernon claimed. He chose the company's national 14/7 van fleet; out

14 days, then home a full 7. The hardest part was being away from his family. But they adjusted, and even state that the schedule has some advantages. He uses the larger block of time off to do family activities. "It's like having a vacation every two weeks," he said.

Because he enjoys helping people, Vernon became a Roehl Driver Trainer. It is one of many different career options and advancements available through Roehl's Careers Unlimited program.

"Vernon's personal and professional growth is something we support," noted Greg Koepel, Roehl Vice President of Workforce Development and Administration. With Careers Unlimited, Roehl offers a wide choice of driving and non-driving choices, which allows drivers to shape a career that fits their personal or professional goals.



Former Air Force Sergeant Vernon Cooper may have completed his military service, but he has a civilian job still serving America.

"I had a great experience when I went through training at Roehl, and I love helping new drivers and being a positive influence for their success," Vernon said.

Finally, Vernon likes seeing the land, people and values he protected while in the Air Force. "Every time I deliver a truckload to a manufacturer, warehouse or store, it's like delivering jobs. It means people are working, getting paid and providing for their families," he explained. "It makes me proud to know that what we do is essential to America's business and commerce. Without over-the-road truck drivers, the world as we know it shuts down."