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Texas Truck and Technician Champions Announced

Nine Drivers and Technician Continue to Nationals

AUSTIN – Texas truck driver and technician competitors met in College Station to test their skills and knowledge at the Annual Truck Driving and Technician Championship. The competition, hosted by Texas Motor Transportation Association (TMTA), welcomed top scoring participants from four regional challenges held across the state.

“TMTA is proud of our industry professionals who make safety and high standards a priority everyday,” said TMTA President and CEO John D. Esparza. “These drivers and technicians are a representation of the trucking industry at its best. We congratulate them on their commitment to excellence and their daily efforts that keep the economy moving and Texas trucking.”

The championship reinforces safe driving initiatives and serves as an incentive for professional truck drivers and technicians. Drivers who participate in the competition must be accident-free for at least one year prior to the competition. Many of the competitors have millions of accident-free driving miles to their credit. During the competition, drivers compete in pre-trip inspections and a driving obstacle course. Technicians test their technical skills with a hands-on practicum.

Truck Driving Competition Winners:

Mario Gonzales Sr.: Katy, Texas Overall Grand Champion (H.E.B. Grocery Company)
Jesus Puente Jr.: Houston, Texas Five-Axle Tank Division (H.E.B. Grocery Company)
Ronald Stelzer: Houston, Texas Step Van Division (United Parcel Service)
David Martinez: Natalia, Texas Twin-Trailers Division (H.E.B. Grocery Company)
Ray Jackson: San Antonio, Texas Five-Axle Van Division (H.E.B. Grocery Company)
Eleno Lara: Gregory, Texas Three-Axle Division (H.E.B. Grocery Company)
Michael Lopez: Waxahachie, Texas Four Axle Division (FedEx Freight)
Ruben Cortez Jr.: Portland, Texas Five-Axle Flatbed Division (H.E.B. Grocery Company)
Oscar Ramos: Harlingen, Texas Five-Axle Sleeper Birth Division (Con-way Freight)

These drivers now advance to the American Trucking Associations’ National Truck Driving Championships which will be in Pittsburg, PA, beginning August 18 - 22.

Technician Competition Winners:

Mark Deen:	Overall Grand Champion	(Cummins Southern Plains)
Rudy Laguna:	Second Place	(H.E.B. Grocery Company)
Steve Roen:	Third Place	(Rush Peterbilt)
Allen Ricketts:	Fourth Place	(H.E.B. Grocery Company)
Armando Martinez:	Fifth Place	(H.E.B. Grocery Company)

The champion technician will represent the Texas trucking industry at the Technology and Maintenance Council’s SuperTech Competition in Raleigh, NC beginning Sept. 14-17.

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TMTA is a trade organization dedicated to advocating sound public policies, providing excellence in education and training, and promoting a safe, dependable and cost-effective motor transportation system to better serve the people of Texas. For more information, please visit: www.tmta.com