

*Unimark News*  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter**

April, 2026



**Spring is here!**

# From President Mike Smith

I'm writing this in the middle of March Madness, and we went from zero to 100 in just a few days. With UTT, we were working on another layoff and the very next day received a call that all drivers would be needed and called the guys from layoff with the increases from DTNA. With the lowboys, March was crazy from the beginning across all customers.



What does quarter two look like? Overall work will be steady; Hino and Isuzu will see lower numbers like what we saw before March. Salem, Hagerstown, Gaffney, Avon and TX will be where the bulk of the work is. We will be working in the last two weeks of March to see where we need to be at driver-wise and make the decision to bring more on or hold to handle the volumes needed.

A Unimark driver hitting a million miles is a huge milestone, especially when it comes to UTT drivers. We recognized Manual Jorge for this target, Manual has been with Unimark for over 12 years and has been a great driver for Unimark, if you see Manual congratulate him on a great accomplishment.

Will plan on drivers meeting sometime at the beginning of the 2nd quarter to answer any questions you may have, as always, you can reach out to me at any time.





# A Message from Vice President, Stephanie Johnston

With summer just around the corner and Memorial Day fast approaching, it's a time to pause and reflect on the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our country. Memorial Day reminds us of the true cost of freedom and the heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Across the United States, cities and towns honor these fallen soldiers with parades that often feature military personnel and members of veterans' organizations. Some of the nation's largest Memorial Day parades take place in Chicago, New York, and Washington, D.C. Many Americans also visit cemeteries and memorials to pay their respects. The holiday weekend has also become an opportunity for families and friends to take short trips, host barbecues, and welcome the unofficial start of summer.

## Memorial Day Facts

**Origins:** The day was originally established to honor Union soldiers who died during the Civil War. After World War I, it expanded to recognize all who have died in any war or military conflict.

**Decoration Day:** In 1868, Illinois Senator John Alexander Logan—former Union general and commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic—proclaimed May 30 as "Decoration Day," a time to decorate the graves of fallen soldiers.

**Name Change:** The term Memorial Day gradually replaced Decoration Day after World War II, becoming the official name by federal law in 1967.

**Date Change:** Memorial Day was traditionally observed on May 30 until 1968, when Congress passed the Uniform Holidays Bill, moving several holidays—including Memorial Day—to designated Mondays to create three-day weekends. (Veterans Day was later moved back to its original November 11 date to align with Armistice Day and Remembrance Day.)

## **The Meaning of the Poppy**

Ever wonder why the poppy is associated with Memorial Day? The tradition dates back to World War I. Amid the devastation of war-torn battlefields, bright red poppies were among the first flowers to bloom. Their resilience became a powerful symbol of remembrance.

Inspired by the sight, Canadian soldier Colonel John McCrae wrote his famous poem *In Flanders Fields* in May 1915, sparking the tradition that endures today. In the United States, the red poppy honors service members who died protecting our country, while in Canada it is worn on Remembrance Day, November 11.

The red poppy does not symbolize blood, death, or support for war—it represents hope, rebirth, and the enduring spirit of those who sacrificed for freedom.





**Emmanuel Antoine**

**Leon Bryan**

**Michael Capoj**

**Benigno Correa**

**John Elford**

**Oliver Fields**

**Shane Hall**

**William Harmon Jr.**

**Jeffery Hill**

**William Horton**

**Robert Jones Jr**

**Manuel Leonor Lora**

**Everard Linton**

**Melvin Lyles**

**Zachary O'Brien**

**Carlos Oriach**

**Winston Payne**

**Gregary Peters**

**Nathaniel Quam**

**Rob Scislowicz**

**Robert Smith**

**Christopher Takacs**

**Bud Wilbur III**

**Kenneth Wioskowski**

**Michael Zbranek**

## Safe Truck Parking Tips

Choose well-lit areas whenever possible—more visibility means fewer risks.

Park in designated truck parking spots, not on fuel islands, ramps, or along edges where accidents are more likely.

Avoid backing into tight or blind areas, but if this is your only option then pick spots that give you plenty of room to maneuver and use driver-side backing to give you more visibility.

Don't park near the end of a row where turning trucks may clip your trailer.

Avoid parking near high-traffic areas, such as entrances, exits, or near the fuel island.



# **SPRING FORWARD SAFELY**

**As the weather warms up be alert  
for:**

**Increased Traffic**

**Changing Weather Conditions and  
Slippery Roads**

**Road Construction**

**Increased animal activity**

**DRIVE SAFELY**

**Joplin office is closed for the  
Memorial Day holiday Monday,  
May 25th.**



# 1st Quarter DOT Inspections

We want to take a moment to recognize and congratulate our drivers who have completed DOT roadside inspections with NO violations in the first quarter of 2026.

A clean inspection is not luck—it's the result of:

Performing thorough pre- and post-trip inspections

Operating equipment safely and professionally

Staying compliant with DOT and FMCSA regulations

These inspections directly protect our CSA scores, strengthen our reputation with enforcement and customers, and reflect the pride you take in your work.

Congratulations to the following drivers for earning clean DOT inspections:

Mike Zbranek

Dwight McFadden

David Calleri

Jeff Hill

Chris Green

Cristian Sanchez

Zack O'Brien

Your professionalism does not go unnoticed, and we appreciate the effort you put in every day to do things the right way.

# Thank you!!!

**Joplin office is moving!**  
**On April 30<sup>th</sup> we will be**  
**moving into our new**  
**location at the old CFI**  
**building at 4701 E 32<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Street on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.**

