

MEMBER



**TAXICAB, LIMOUSINE  
& PARATRANSIT ASSOCIATION**

*Representing taxicab, limousine, sedan, airport,  
shuttle, paratransit, Medicaid & non-emergency  
medical fleets worldwide.*

# The Carrier

Pittsburgh Transportation Group  
1825 Liverpool Street • Pittsburgh, PA 15233



**March 2011**

## Veteran Profile

### SHAWN FENK

Taxi driver, Shawn Fenk, joined the US Navy in 1983, and became a Hospital Corpsman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class. He has been stationed with the 4<sup>th</sup> Marines in 29 Palms, California, the 1<sup>st</sup> Marines in Camp Pendleton, California, and the 8<sup>th</sup> Marines in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He has seen combat in Panama, Central America and Desert Storm. Petty Officer Fenk left the Navy a disabled VET in 1993.



He is married, lives in Avalon, and has three grown children and 4 grandchildren.

This 1987 photo shows Shawn resting from training in the Philippines, while he waits for a helicopter to transport his unit back to the ship off the Pacific coast.

## FREEDOM HOUSE STREET SAVIORS

Congratulations to taxi driver, George McCary, who will appear in the HBO award nominated African American Film Festival "Freedom House Street Saviors".

In 1967, starting as an improbable poverty experiment, 26 hardcore unemployed black men and women were recruited from the inner city streets of Pittsburgh, and trained to become the first paramedics in the United States. They were known as the "Freedom House" paramedics and were the pride of the Hill District. Starting from a base in Presbyterian and Mercy Hospitals, they were trained by the father of CPR, Dr. Peter Safar, to bring emergency medicine to the streets, to introduce CPR to the world, and to design today's paramedic intensive care units. These independent pioneers functioned for eight years at the top of their field – essentially setting the national standards for emergency care.

Political winds shifted, and the city decided to launch its own mobile intensive care service in 1975. There was no longer room for this upstart minority service. This engrossing documentary is a testament to these forgotten heroes.

"Freedom House Street Saviors" is told through the eyes of surviving members. These black paramedics, with their passionate and emotional stories, went into housing projects, shooting galleries and the homes of affluent Pittsburgh, where one story involves a white heart-attack patient who refused to be touched by these black medics, but subsequently had her life saved by them.

After more than 40 years, this buried story is now being told to a wider audience and the group is belatedly receiving some public acclaim for its legacy in Pittsburgh and medical history.

Congratulations, George, on being one of these esteemed pioneers!

## WELCOME RICH WALMSLEY



Rich Walmsley, the new Manager of Safety and Training, comes to Pittsburgh Transportation Group from the Charter School District of Pittsburgh, where he was the Facilities and Safety Manager for five years. In that position he oversaw new

buildings, building maintenance and transportation to ensure a safe and secure environment for staff and students. Prior to that he was Public Safety Director for the US Steel Building.

In his spare time, he enjoys woodworking, remodeling and classic cars. He lives in Cranberry, and is married with three daughters, ages, 31, 27, and 16.

Stop by his office and say "Hi".



Taxi driver, John Morrison, delivers food donations to the VisitPittsburgh Welcome Center downtown in celebration of Martin Luther King Day. He is pictured here with Mary Grasha Haupt, Executive Director of Human Resources, and Laura Jackson, Visitors Representative, VisitPittsburgh.



## KUDOS KOLUMN

(Anyone who gets his/her name in the Kudos Kolumn receives a \$25 Giant Eagle gift card. if you get 2 mentions you get 2 / \$25 cards, etc!)

### See your Manager to claim your gift Card!

**From: Craig T. Davis, Vice President Sales and Marketing, VisitPittsburgh** – “We met this morning with representatives from the new owner of the Renaissance hotel, and they raved about the ride into town they had with your driver number 236 (Joe Colaizzi). Please let him know that his professionalism and passion for the city made a perfect start to their week.”

**From: Marcy & Sean McGovern** – “I wanted to write to thank Jim Marak, and your drivers for all of your assistance with the transportation of our wedding guests for our recent New Year's Eve wedding. You were wonderful to work with and you truly put our minds at ease that the transportation for the evening was going to be handled in a professional, competent manner.

As nearly all of our guests are from out of town, having reliable transportation to/from the wedding on a holiday evening was very important to us. Our guests have repeatedly complimented the professionalism and courtesy of your drivers, Clarence Mitchell and Tom Magerl. Clarence, Tom, and Jim helped to deliver a fantastic, memorable evening to Sean and I and our guests. Simply stated, we cannot thank you enough. We will certainly recommend Pittsburgh Transportation to friends who may have transportation needs.”

**From: SuperShuttle customer, Carol McKay, about van driver Charles Edmunds** - “I wanted to leave feedback to let you know that my driver was excellent, and he handled a very cranky couple of passengers in the van with me with patience and grace. They were unnecessarily rude to him, and he treated them with respect. “

**From: ITT Tech to Jen Cilia** – “Thank you a million times for all your help and patience. I think you are wonderful and you are excellent at your job!!!”

**All in the Family:** January 26th, SuperShuttle driver James Collins, saw a man lying on the sidewalk. He asked his passenger if it would be alright to stop and check on the man. The passenger agreed. James went to the man's aide and found he was quite injured so he called the paramedics and waited with him until they arrived. Unknown to James, the man who fell was a Yellow Cab driver named Hassan. Through a friend, who happens to be another Super Shuttle driver, Hassan contacted corporate to find out who this driver was so that he could thank him for his kindness.

**Kudos to Taxi driver, John Talarico** – “You were the cab driver who responded to my 5AM request for a ride to the airport from my home in Forest Hills. You arrived at 4:50AM and called. Unfortunately, my alarm never went off and since we can't hear our phone when we're sleeping, I didn't realize what had happened. Luckily, my husband happened to wake up at 5:20AM and in a mad dash I caught my plane, but I hate the idea of you stuck outside a dark house waiting for nothing! So enclosed is the tip I would have paid you for the ride. With apologies.”

**Kudos to Liane Palaschak, from Lillian Tamir, Silver Sneakers Group** – “Thank you so much for your help in planning the transportation for my group. You were a crucial part in making this event run smoothly.”



### SUPERSHUTTLE DRIVERS

See the Get Fleet from GetGo program information in the driver's corporate cashiering area, second floor. Save up to 5¢/gallon on gasoline! See Christina Kolcun with questions.



### YELLOW CAB STORE

To date 45 pieces of merchandise have been sold with hats and visor organizers being the best sellers! Check it out, and professionalize your taxi business!

### \*\*\*Safety Tip: *Changing Temperatures - BLACK ICE* from Rich Walmsley, Manager Safety and Training

The month of March is best described as “unpredictable” with its ever changing weather patterns. You can have temperatures in the 50's on one day, and have 10 inches of snow the next.

This being said, March cannot only bring snow but even more dangerous....it can bring “black ice” which results from sudden falling & rising of temperature and windy conditions. Black ice is very common throughout March and is highly transparent and difficult to see, even when walking. It is often times created on the roads from automobile exhausts that condenses on the roadway and freezes. During March, black ice forms even when the ambient temperature is several degrees above freezing. The air warms suddenly after a prolonged cold spell that leaves the surface of the roadway and walkways well below the freezing point thus making ice.

#### Points to remember:

- Black ice isn't a problem when the conditions are obviously nasty, but is a serious problem when the conditions look OK.
- Pay special attention to shiny or wet looking walkways, parking lots & roads.
- When driving, note that bridge surfaces and overpasses freeze first. When approaching them, use extreme caution and do not apply your brakes.
- If you begin to slide, take your foot off the gas pedal, put transmission in neutral and turn towards the direction of the slide.
- If walking, stay balanced and observe the surface you are walking on.

**STAY ALERT.....STAY SAFE!!**