



Blanche Ash
1926 - 2011

BLANCHE ASH A VERY SPECIAL LADY

Many of us here at Greenville Tool & Die have been blessed in our lives to not only know, but to have been both supported by and influenced by two very special people, Stanley and Blanche Ash. Both epitomized humility, caring for and about others, helping those in need, while realizing that education can be the key to success for not only individuals, but our communities. Both came from humble beginnings on the farm and never forgot their roots, living their life as what most people would say was well below their means, choosing instead to share with others.

For many years as Greenville Tool & Die's President and owner, Stanley led the charge with support from his wife, Blanche. They established the Ash Foundation which for decades

has offered renewable scholarships to those seeking post secondary education. Literally hundreds of students have been recipients. Their philanthropy knew no boundaries as they often anonymously helped those in need. Then, Stanley learned he had Parkinson's Disease and as the years went by, and his health continued to fail, Blanche became his rock and his strength in carrying out the mission which has now become their legacy. In early 2004, Stanley passed away. Blanche knew she needed to be strong and willingly accepted the challenge to carry on the mission in which they both so passionately believed. Earlier, their major donation had spearheaded the fundraising for Montcalm Community College's M-TEC in Greenville. The Ash's long time commitment and major support, resulted in the college commemorating their new science building, the Stanley P. Ash Building on their main campus in 2007. Blanche's 19 years as a Gray Lady volunteer at United Memorial Hospital influenced the couple's many contributions to healthcare in our area including an upcoming major expansion to our local Emergency Dept. These garnered Blanche's selection in 2007 as the Spectrum Health United Foundation's "Spirit of Caring" award. As her own health failed in recent years, she established the "Better Breather's Club." On August 24, Blanche passed away peacefully at her home.

As we here at Greenville Tool & Die think about how Blanche touched our lives, we remember a wonderful, caring, and thoughtful woman. Even after GTD employees purchased the company from her in 2005, we have always remained her "family." She never let us forget the birthday of the company or that day we became an ESOP and employee owned, typically sending us down cupcakes for all. Until her health failed in recent years, she always volunteered for our Red Cross Blood Drives and other than the newest employees, she knew everyone here. Wherever you might run into her, at the grocery store, up town, or at an event, she always recognized you and wanted to know how you and your family were doing. We will always remember Blanche Ash, "A Very Special Lady."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We would like to take this opportunity to wish the following GTD employees a Happy Birthday on:

OCTOBER

- 2.....Jamie Sellers
- 6.....Dwayne MacLaren
- 13.....David Scott
- 15.....Gregg Peters
- 16.....Steve Foster
- 16.....Josh Brewington
- 16.....Nate Post
- 17.....Kevin Lipp
- 21.....Eric Teegardin
- 22.....Ashton Mead
- 26.....Jay Vlahas
- 30.....Brian Mason

SAFETY & SUGGESTION COMMITTEE

Dave Scott
Kurt Newcomb

Blaine Kortez
Brian Scott

The Safety & Suggestion Committee for September will meet Wednesday, September 28, 2011 at 3:30 p.m. in the large conference room.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Our next Red Cross Blood Drive is Tuesday, September 13 from noon until approximately 4:30 p.m.

BIRTH

We would like to congratulate Matt Greenhoe and Samantha Wright on the birth of their first child, a boy, Brantley, born on August 10.

UPCOMING



Better Hearing will provide annual Audiograms for most GTD employees on Monday, September 12. Employees are reminded to wear hearing protection during the prior weekend and the day of the test.

The Spectrum Health Visiting Nurse Assoc. will again be offering Flu Shots to GTD employees and their families on Tuesday, September 27.



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GREENVILLE TOOL & DIE

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Congratulations to Brian Mason and his wife Kari for their accomplishments in the recent Danish Festival's, St. Anskar Barbecue Cook Off, "Thrill of the Grill" competition. This was Brian's third competition finishing well his first two years and still has people talking about the grilled pizza he served up last year. But, this year he did it! Offering a variety of items like bacon-wrapped chicken fingers, ribs, and grilled pineapple, he wowed the judges and won the title of GRILL MASTER OF GREENVILLE 2011.

Not to be outdone, Kari won the nonmeat category with her grilled pineapple.



It's obvious the Masons really enjoy their grilling (mostly all with charcoal by the way) and they are good at it. Especially during the summer holidays and weekends, friends and family gather often at the Masons to savor some of their delicious offerings from the grill.



HOLLAND AMERICA ALASKAN CRUISE: Above(l-r) on deck are Jim and Sue Buskirk, and Rose and Brian Lake with Glacier Bay, Alaska in the background. This was the couples' late July vacation round trip cruise from Seattle, WA to Alaska and back via Juneau, Sitka, Glacier Bay, Ketchikan, and Victoria, B.C.

MISSION TRIP



GTD Co-op student and Greenville High School Senior, Jacob Wisinski, 2nd from left, ventured to DuPont, WV in July with his Greenville First Congregational Church Youth Group. Meeting with youth from all over the country, Jacob's group above, built this wheelchair ramp for a handicapped individual.

Tool Bits
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