



JIMMY BLOCKER

2011 GLAZIER OF THE YEAR

SPOTLIGHT

On Jimmy Blocker:

Title Glazier & Welder for R.A. Kennedy & Sons, Inc. (Aston, PA)

Hometown Darby, PA

Family Wife Bianca; kids Tajha (25), Ryna (23), and James (17)

Awards Jimmy was recognized for his contributions to Local 252 as Apprentice of the Year in 1998 and Glazier of the Year in 2011.



ABOUT JIMMY

With over 22 years as a member of Local 252, Jimmy Blocker has had wide exposure to the glazing trade. He currently works for R.A. Kennedy & Sons, Inc., where he focuses predominantly on welding. He performs both glazing and welding work for projects in the healthcare, commercial, pharmaceutical, education, and multi-family residential markets.



Jimmy currently works on the Holtec International campus rising in Camden, N.J. The 50-acre site along the Delaware River will include a new glass-clad Corporate Engineering Center. Other recent projects include Lankenau Medical

Center's new Patient Tower in Wynnewood, Pa., and Einstein Medical Center Montgomery in Norristown, Pa.

Jimmy began his tenure as a glazier just after graduating from high school in North Philadelphia. A teacher advocated the trade and the opportunities it offered. Jimmy now shares the same advice with young people he meets, including his 17-year-old son, who is currently exploring options for his own future.

"It's a great job to go for," he says. "The guys you meet look out for each other. We have a tight-knit family in this union."

Jimmy doesn't personally mind the heights or even the cold, but the heat of the summer months sometimes takes its toll.

Left: Jimmy at work welding

BEST PARTS OF THE JOB

A self-proclaimed lone wolf, Jimmy spends much of his time on the job site working independently or with a partner doing the welding before glass can be set; sometimes he also does a little caulking.

Although he enjoys welding, Jimmy looks forward to the days when he can work with a three- or four-man crew setting lites of glass. "Setting the glass is fun because you get to work with everyone and you get the camaraderie with different guys," he says. "I work with good crews of guys," he adds. "It's a good time."

Jimmy enjoys the change of scenery that comes with moving from project to project and explains that while it is nice to be on a single job for quite a bit of time, it's a welcome change when the project is eventually over and he can move on to another site.

FAMILY MAN

When he's not at work, Jimmy spends time with his family. Bowling, going out to eat, and visiting the mall are all regular pastimes. But these are second to his favorite hobby - barbecue. With his son James as second in command, Jimmy enjoys grilling burgers and hot dogs and relaxing with his family.

He's a Sixers fan who tries to get to a few games each season. He also roots for the Eagles and Phillies.

GENTLEMAN JIM

Quiet and modest, Jimmy doesn't talk much about himself. However, his colleagues at the Finishing Trades Institute and in the glazing community have nothing but praise for his work ethic and kindness. He was recognized as the 1998 Apprentice of the Year after finishing at the top of his class.

After proving his competency in welding during his apprenticeship, Jimmy was invited to become a part-time welding instructor at FTI. He continues to hold this post nearly two decades later. His dedication to training others in a positive and reinforcing way has built longstanding rapport with students and other instructors. Jimmy is an AWS certified welding instructor and certified stick welder who helps to get others certified.

Jimmy also participates as a trustee on the Local 252 executive board. His goal is to encourage agreement and simplify issues.

In recognition of his contributions, Jimmy was honored again in 2011 as Glazier of the Year.

"Because of his kind-hearted and level-headed approach to the work, we found ourselves calling him 'Gentleman Jim'."

- Mike Metz, Finishing Trades Institute



Top: daughter Tajha, niece Ryna, wife Bianca, and son James at Bianca's graduation from Holy Family; bottom: Jimmy and Bianca