GLASS & METAL ALLIANCE

WILLIAM KEEBLER

FOREMAN & 2015 GLAZIER OF THE YEAR

SPOTLIGHT

On William Keebler:

Title Foreman for National Glass & Metal Company, Inc. (Horsham, PA)

Hometown Northeast Philadelphia

Family Daughters Melissia (29) and Jaime (26); sons Billy (27) and Christopher (21); four grandchildren

Favorite Sports Team Philadelphia Eagles

ABOUT WILLIAM

William Keebler falls in the middle of three generations of family who have built careers in glazing. Bill's two uncles were Teamster truck drivers for a glazing company. His father was a glazier, a shop steward, and a former president of Local 1166. Continuing in the family's glazing tradition, Bill's two sons have followed him into the trade.

Bill's long tenure in glazing began 36 years ago when, in 1980, he started working alongside his father at Pearlstein Glass. Bill quickly accelerated from glazing helper to glazier and has spent the last 28+ years as a glazing foreman.

Bill credits his willingness to work hard and pursue new opportunities with his career advancement. One day as a young inside worker, Bill saw trucks getting loaded with glass and asked the drivers a little about what they did. He was interested in getting out of the warehouse and onto construction sites. This desire to work outdoors led him toward apprenticeship and subsequent employment in a variety of shops.

Today, Bill works with National Glass & Metal Company, Inc. of Horsham, Pa., one of the largest glazing contractors in the U.S. Bill enjoys the wide variety and scale of projects at National, from stainless steel panels to glass handrails to custom work, and the chance to work on buildings large and small.

"I couldn't ask for a better group of guys," Bill says of his co-workers. "It's a well-rounded group, like a family. The employer treats you good and is fair if you work hard."

Bill is no stranger to hard work. As a foreman, he has run many high-profile and highly custom projects ranging from the recent glass cable wall installation at the Princeton University Center for Genomics Studies in Princeton, N.J., to the dramatic glass cable walls at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia, Pa. He managed the glazing scope at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, Congregation Rodeph Shalom, and also spent quite a bit of time on the original Comcast Tower in Philadelphia. Recently, he managed window replacement at Abington Memorial Hospital.

NEXT GENERATION

Bill enjoys helping and guiding the young apprentices at National. He also encouraged both of his sons to become glaziers. Billy, Jr. (age 27) and Christopher (age 21) followed their father into the trade. Billy is in his seventh year as a glazier with Eureka Metal & Glass Services, Inc., in Philadelphia. Christopher joined his father five months ago at National Glass; he's currently a handler but working toward taking his test to become an apprentice glazier.

SIMPLE ADVICE

Bill admits he gave both of his sons the same pieces of advice - which he offers to any young person beginning his or her career in glazing: "Never be late. Never miss work. Keep your mouth shut. Don't complain. Work hard." Bill adds that respect isn't given but earned, and that "learning your trade to the best of your ability will ensure you have the most success in the future."

This simple advice, practiced as well as preached, along with his track record of exemplary performance as a glazier and foreman, led Glaziers Local #252 to present Bill Keebler with the Ralph "Woozy" Williams Glazier of the Year Award in 2015.

GOOD REPUTATION

According to National Glass & Metal Co. General Manager Rick Shenberger, Bill is a master craftsman, leader, and mentor who takes great pride in his work. Bill's customer relations skills have earned him a good reputation among construction managers and site superintendents, while his problem-solving skills, attention to detail, and the high quality standards he sets make him well-respected and well-liked by his coworkers and project managers. The example he sets also impacts future glaziers. "Bill has been very valuable in motivating and teaching his vast knowledge of jobsite safety and workmanship skills to our apprentices and young glaziers," Rick adds.

DOWN TIME

When he's not managing a glass project, Bill enjoys freshwater and surf fishing, bike riding, and day trips in the region, from the Poconos to the Jersey Shore. He's a big fan of the Philadelphia Eagles, although he admits with a groan that this season has been "interesting." Bill coached both sons in football and baseball but today turns his attention to his four grandchildren, the most recent of which was born earlier this year.

BEST DECISION

"For myself, glazing has definitely been the best," Bill says. "Over the years, I've met so many people and made a lot of friends. It has worked well for me."

Clockwise from top: Bill and his family at the 2015 Glazier of the Year ceremony; Bill's grandchildren: Haley, Mason, Logan, and Colin; Bill and girlfriend Debbie O'Drain; Bill on job sites for Urban Outfitters, the Kimmel Center, and Abington Hospital