GLASS & METAL ALLIANCE

KENNY HOPKINS, III

JOURNEYPERSON GLAZIER & DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

SPOTLIGHT

On Kenny Hopkins:

Title Journeyperson Glazier for Eureka Metal & Glass Services, Inc. (Philadelphia, Pa.)

Hometown Bensalem, Pa.

Family Wife Chelsea; sons Kenny IV (3) and Jace (7 months)

Favorite Movies Backdraft and Zero Dark Thirty

Favorite Sports Team Philadelphia Eagles

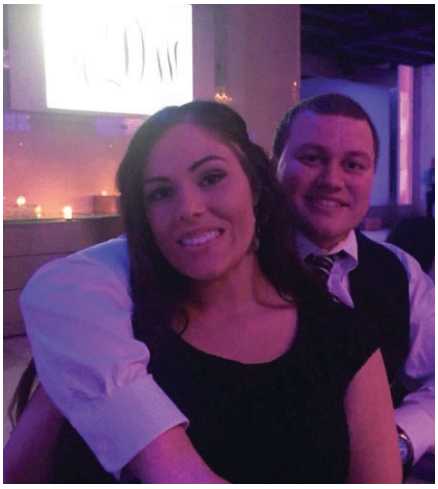
ABOUT KENNY

Kenny Hopkins III had half of his career trajectory identified by age 14. He followed his family's bootsteps into volunteer fire service, becoming the third generation to serve. He took all types of fire classes while finishing Bensalem High School. By his 2006 graduation and age 18, Kenny was an interior fireman. Today he's Deputy Fire Chief for Union Fire Company in Bensalem, Pa., serving alongside his father (Fire Chief Ken Hopkins, Jr.) and brother (Battalion Chief Kevin Hopkins). Fire service remains a passion and a commitment; Kenny jumps into action whenever a call comes in, whether that's during the day or in the middle of the night.

It took Kenny a bit longer to follow his family into glazing. Despite having an uncle with three decades as a glazier, Kenny briefly attended Bucks County Community College and worked miscellaneous jobs until his early twenties. Then he met his now-wife Chelsea. Her stepfather, also a glazier, emphasized his good living in the trade. Kenny began his apprenticeship in May 2014 and graduated in June 2018. He has only one class left to fulfill his associate degree and has already demonstrated leadership at Eureka Metal & Glass Services, where he has worked for the last two years. Today, he's a journeyperson glazier with a bright future ahead.

Left to right: Kenny (third from top right) with the Glaziers Softball Team; installing glazing at the 76ers Practice Facility in Camden, N.J.

Left to right: Kenny with his wife Chelsea; sons Kenny IV and Jace; on the job as volunteer Deputy Fire Chief in Bensalem, Pa.



LEARNING BY DOING

During his second year of apprenticeship, Kenny joined the glazing team for the new Philadelphia 76ers Training Complex in Camden, N.J. "It was my first real job where I was in the field all day learning the trade," he explained. "I'm such a major Philly sports fan, so it was pretty cool. But we're professionals in our industry and have to stay professional," he added, describing how it took effort not to feel giddy passing Joel Embiid and other stars in the hallways. He spent nearly 14 months on the job, learning curtain wall installation, setting glass, and installing framing.

Kenny's work ethic and early exposure to major projects led to his opportunity to lead a project last summer. He served as lead glazier for the Wells-Fargo Building at 123 South Broad Street in Philadelphia, managing a crew of five.

EVERY DAY IS NEW

Today, Kenny works frequently on one- to two-day installations of storefronts, mirror, Wilson framing, and top and bottom half-inch channel glass. He enjoys the variety. "Pretty much every day is a new task." Occasionally, he'll be responsible for longer and larger projects, such as Magee Rehabilitation in Center City, where he has been one of the primary glaziers for a five-floor window replacement project.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

"Give 100 percent effort 100 percent of the time and you'll make it," Kenny advises. He practices what he preaches. In addition to his work for Eureka, Kenny teaches first aid and CPR as a part-time health and safety instructor at the Finishing Trades Institute. In July, he was elected to serve as a union delegate for District Council 21. In 2019, Kenny was honored with the Harry F. Schurr Leadership Award.

PITCH PERFECT

Kenny's leadership extends to his play on the Glaziers Softball team. He has played for six years and been the every-game pitcher for the last three years. He also played on the last two Labor of Love Tournament-winning teams. In 2018, Kenny pitched a perfect game against the Roofers. To understand the significance of that fact, there have been only 23 perfect games thrown in Major League Baseball history and no pitcher has ever done the feat twice.

GROWING FAMILY

Kenny and his wife Chelsea celebrated their third wedding anniversary in September and have been together for nine years. They are proud parents to Kenny IV, age 3, and Jace, who joined the family just seven months ago. Kenny IV already accompanies his dad to the fire house for some of the 10-15 hours per week Kenny spends there.

BROTHERHOOD

Having been in the fire service for 17 years, Kenny relates the brotherhood of the fire company with the union brotherhood he experiences in glazing. "Everybody's one big family. The guys I work with are great. That's what makes coming to work every day so good," he says.

Kenny explains that knowing what he does now after becoming a glazier, he wishes more kids were encouraged to go into the construction trades. "Where else can you get four years of apprenticeship and come out and make a great wage and have no debt?" he asks. "It's a great living. You can raise your family off of it. And the camaraderie and brotherhood is outstanding."