



**Press Release**

**Comet Bus Driver Philip Patterson Wins 11<sup>th</sup> State Rodeo**

**Columbia, SC – May 7, 2014** – In early March, Veolia Transportation bus driver Philip Patterson won first place in the State sponsored Bus Rodeo. Patterson maneuvered his bus through the obstacle course, beating his peers for the first place spot. The veteran bus driver has been driving buses for 36 years and he’s been participating in rodeos since 1995. He is definitely a champion having won first place 11 times in the 35 ft. bus category!

“I spend many Sundays practicing my driving”, said Patterson. “I want to be the best I can be each time I compete. That takes practice.” Patterson will now move on to compete in the Annual American Public Transportation Association (APTA) rodeo taking place in Kansas City this week. Patterson won his first APTA Rodeo in 2006, and he said the time he spends practicing is definitely worth it.

According to Veolia’s General Manager Larry Livingston, “We offered Philip a supervisor’s position at one time but he turned it down saying, “Driving is my passion. I love meeting people, interacting with them, and just being out driving. And I love rodeos!” Patterson started driving buses for Veolia after watching his brother-in-law who was a bus driver.

Patterson’s driving successes run deep. He has an excellent driving record having driven 20 years without a preventable accident. This qualifies him for Veolia’s prestigious Million Milers Club. A bus driver must log 12 years of driving without a preventable accident in order to be considered a “Million Miler”.

When asked to share his secret to safe driving Patterson replied it’s very simple. “Stay focused, use your mirrors, keep a clear vision, and just be careful.

**About Veolia Transportation**

Veolia Transportation is the largest private-sector operator of multiple modes of transit in North America, including bus, rail, paratransit, shuttle, and sedan and taxi services. Veolia Transportation is committed to setting the standard in safe and sustainable mobility through partnerships with cities and transit authorities. The company is based in Lombard, IL, near Chicago.

Visit the company's Web sites at: [www.veoliatransportation.com](http://www.veoliatransportation.com) and [www.transdev.net](http://www.transdev.net)

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