



May 19, 2009

Watco Team:

The Watco Family has endured challenging times this year with the loss of my father; Brad Smith, Vicksburg Southern Railroad trainmaster; Carl McKeown, Alabama Southern Railroad chief mechanical engineer and Mitch Schank, Wood River, Ill. arch welder. Many of us were very close to these long time members of our Watco Family and blessed to work alongside them.

My father, Brad, Carl and Mitch were important to our Team, but mostly they were important to their families. People are our most important asset and we must always remember they are husbands, wives, mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, brothers and sisters and important to others whom we may not know. Although these men passed on due to circumstances beyond our control, we must be safe and responsible and look out for one another every day.

This Memorial Day weekend many of us will celebrate the start of summer with cookouts, boating, camping and fishing trips and many other activities. Have fun and be safe, but also remember to take time to think of those who have gone before us. Every one of you is important to not only your personal family, but your Watco Family and we look forward to having you around for many years to come.

Have a safe and happy Memorial Day and keep making great things happen.

*Rick*