# Title: Tennessee Bus Driver Terry Ford is Unsung: A Hardworking Series by Shell Rotella T

**Transcript:** I think the most satisfying parts have been along the road, you see a lot of beautiful sunrises. I'm Terry Ford. I live in Morristown, Tennessee and I'm a bus driver. I'm in my 25th year with Hemphill Brothers Coach Company so I've been driving full-time since 1985. Did 11 years with Trisha Yearwood. In '92, I was on the MC Hammer 2 Legit tour. Done several Luther Vandross tours before he passed on. In 2000, I got to do George W. Bush a lot so we do get a wide variety of work to do. Right now, I'm currently touring with a band called The Band Perry. They're young, they're energetic like my grandkids. I'm out about 300 days a year so you find yourself thinking about family a lot. All you remember is the laughter and that keeps you going. Learn to stay up all night and sleep day times. I get up normally between 10 and 11 PM. Have my coffee, catch my ride, or if I'm close enough, I'll walk to the bus. I grew up a bass player in Southern Gospel music. Of course I got married and had children. Family was getting hungry and I had to decide if I'm going to eat or play music so I chose eating. In July of '85, I interviewed with a bus company, started driving the next weekend. The kids can eat. When I get to the bus for my check, I walk around, thump the tires, take the tire pressure, make sure it's all good. Gig I'm on now, we actually pull a trailer so we have to check the trailer. At that point, I usually open the engine compartment, check my oil, transmission fluid, do a visual inspection of the belts to make sure they're all looking good and tight. If I take good care of the bus, it in a sense will take care of me. Want to fire it up and pretty much, you're good to go at that point. One of the important parts of my job is always realizing that people are on the bus and they're trying to have a life, so trying to drive in a manner that's smooth enough to where they don't notice they're moving. Doing a good job is meaning arriving and no one's awake. There is certain times when driving in wide open, It's a free feeling like riding a horse in wide open spaces with the mane blowing in the wind. You hit a lot of moments you wish you could share it with somebody, but everybody's in bed so cherish the moments yourself. I told my son growing up: whatever you do, do it well. You know when you do a good job. Just the satisfaction of yes, I did a good job tonight and then I get up and do it all over again.