

## Marty Bush – 37 Years

## HAPPY RETIREMENT

## Rich Ring – 40 Years



Pictured above is the Bush Family with Marty on the far left.

Marty Bush retired from Greenville Tool and Die on December 31, 2023, after 37 years of service. Marty started at GTD on March 3, 1986, in the die maker apprenticeship program which he completed in 1990. Later that year he moved into the engineering department. He completed the designer apprenticeship in 1992. As his experience grew he became an engineering leader and retired from his final position as a design leader in the engineering department. As design leader he oversaw project designs and supervised the design engineers on those projects.

Marty was born and raised on a farm in Belding, Michigan. He graduated from Belding High School in 1980. Marty and his wife Sheryl have three children Justin, Ashley, and Emillie and five grandchildren.

During his 37 years at GTD, he has seen many changes, but the biggest change he saw was the advancement of technology. When he started out in the engineering department, the designs were hand drawn on a drawing board. As the technology advanced the process became completely computerized. Marty mentioned that his favorite part of working at GTD was the people he worked with.

Marty plans to do a little traveling and his first trip will be to Florida this winter. He also plans on returning more often to his family property on Beaver Island. In his retirement he also looks forward to continuing his hobby of woodworking. He is planning to complete a few woodworking projects for the kids, grandkids, and the Belding library. He also enjoys deer hunting and hopes to get back into fishing now that he will have the time to do so.

*GTD would like to thank Marty for outstanding service to GTD and wish him many more years of health and happiness in retirement.*



Pictured above is the Ring Family with Rich in the middle.

Rich Ring retired on December 31, 2023. Born and raised in the Belding area, Rich is the youngest child of Richard Sr. and Callie Ring. Rich has two older sisters. Growing up, Rich had a passion for playing sports and being outdoors. In high school, Rich played football, basketball, and baseball. He also took wood shop, metal shop, chemistry, and loved math classes. While in high school Rich had his own neighborhood lawn care and handyman gig. He would take care of lawns, paint houses, install A/C window units, wash cars, and anything asked of the elderly neighbors within a bike ride distance. These miscellaneous jobs were at a rate of \$2.00 per hour. Once he got his driver's license the neighborhood suddenly expanded, and Rich had to choose which neighbors he worked for. Some of these neighbors were Lee Ranney of Ranney Refrigeration which would later become AGA Marvel Refrigeration, John Cooper of Belding Savings and Loan, and Ralph Christensen, owner of the local bait shop. After 10<sup>th</sup> grade Rich was hired by Jack Joint to work in one of Jack's Automotive stores, primarily working in Belding and occasionally in the Greenville store.

Graduating from Belding High School in June 1982, the economy was not doing well, and the job market was thin. Rich continued working part time at Jack's Automotive on the weekends, pumping gas in the evenings at Ray Winnie Sunoco full-service gas station and working security dayshift at Electrolux. Rich's uncle Ron Brimmer who worked and would later retire from GTD, encouraged him to apply for employment there.

On Oct 3, 1983, Rich was blessed and excited to be offered employment with GTD. He vividly remembers sitting across the desk from Stan Ash and being offered a position. *Article continues back page.*



## Bill Draper - 25 Years of Service



Bill Draper is the 111th employee to reach a quarter of a century of service on December 14, 2023. Bill was born and raised in the Carson City area. He graduated from Carson City-Crystal High School in 1996. During his senior year of high school, he worked as a co-op student at Acura Manufacturing in Lyons, Michigan. In February 1997, Bill began his career in Tool and Die at Tomco in Belding, Michigan. Upon GTD purchasing Tomco in 2003, Bill accepted a position to continue with GTD. Bill currently serves as a CNC Machinist.

Bill mentioned that throughout his 25 years he has seen many changes in efficiency and technology. Both changes have allowed for more work to be done at GTD with a faster output. His favorite thing about GTD is the people he works with.

Bill along with his wife Andrea of 19 years have two teenage children Ryan and Rachel. In his spare time, Bill enjoys hunting and occasionally fishing.

*Bill, thank you for your 25 years of outstanding service with GTD. We wish you much continued success in your career!*

## GTD Welcomes to the Team:



**Kevin Velding**  
Apprentice Tool  
& Die Maker



**Jacob Doty**  
Apprentice Tool  
& Die Maker



**Caleb Huddle**  
Apprentice Tool  
& Die Maker



**Tabitha Randolph**  
Apprentice Tool &  
Die Maker



**Michael Krause**  
CNC Machinist



**Dennis Paulson**  
CNC Machinist



**Landon Mahar**  
Pathfinder



**Robert Pratt**  
Pathfinder



**Dave Pyne**  
Apprentice CNC



**Kain Helder**  
Pathfinder



**Brendan Morris**  
Pathfinder

## GTD Family Additions



Congratulations to GTD employee Blake Shotko and his wife Alexis on the birth of their second child. Shay Shotko was born on 12/29/23. She weighed 8lbs.

## Rich Ring - Continue

Rich started out in the engineering department designing on a drafting table with a lead holder, straight edges, and a large eraser. Eventually, engineering technology evolved into CAD, and he would learn GTD's first design software Computervision and later Catia. After 10 years, Rich accepted a position as Engineering Assistant, troubleshooting between diemakers and engineering, answering points from quality controls, assisting with the writing of programs needed for CAD designing, etc. In 2014, Rich was promoted to Human Resource and Safety Director and held that position until retirement.

Some of the many things that Rich loved about working here and will miss are being part of the tradition of GTD, the advancement in technology, the physical growth of the company and facility, and the brotherhood and sisterhood with so many talented people. Being part of the legacy that Stan and Blanche Ash had for GTD, the community, and education is something Rich is very proud of yet humbled by it at the same time.

Rich is married to the former Susan Edwards from Ionia, and they are working on 38 years of marriage. Together they have 4 children and 6 grandchildren. Rich enjoys hunting, sports, camping, the out-of-doors, cruiser biking, and coin collecting. In retirement Rich and Sue plan to camp more, do some traveling, and spend more time with family. They look forward to writing, editing, and rewriting the next several chapters of their lives called retirement.

*GTD would like to thank Rich for outstanding service to GTD and wish him many more years of health and happiness in retirement.*

## New HR & Safety Director



Greenville Tool & Die is pleased to announce that Mandy Christian has been promoted to HR and Safety Director. She will now oversee all human resource and safety concerns. Mandy has been with GTD for 8 years. We look forward to continuing to work with Mandy in this new position and we thank her for all her hard work and dedications to GTD. Congratulations Mandy!

**Thank you for joining the GTD family! We are so excited to have you on board!**

## GTD Staff Reminder



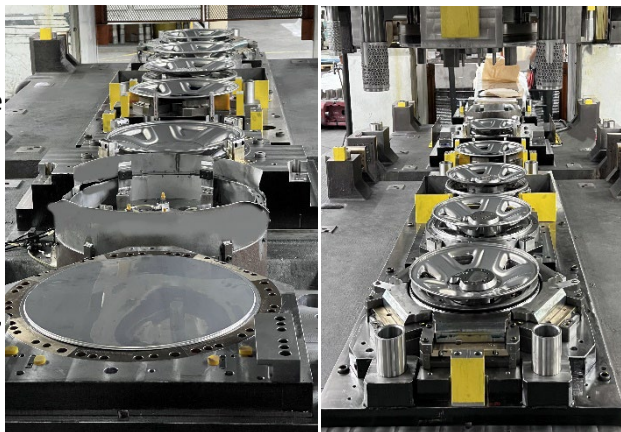
If you have a student graduating or you are graduating this year and would like your picture posted in the next newsletter, please send the graduation photo to Holly. Please include student's name and school name.



## Excellent Craftsmanship



Pictured above left to right is Die Maker Gabe Linder, Program Manager Brian Brasington, & Designer Josh Bailey. Another high-quality transfer die has been designed and completed at GTD. Critical team members who were a part of this project are Die Maker Gabe Linder, Program Manager Brian Brasington, Designer Josh Bailey, Die Maker Assistant Matt Zander, and Journeyman Austin Wronch. They did an excellent job on this project as well as many other employees not named.



Another example of our highly skilled employees and their exceptional craftsmanship utilized to create high quality parts.

## New Chief Engineer



Greenville Tool and Die is pleased to announce that Brett Tomkinson has been promoted to Chief Engineer. Brett's 22 years of experience and expertise in both the machining as Machining Supervisor and the engineering department as Engineering Leader will serve him well in this new position.

Thank you, Brett, for all your hard work and dedication to GTD. We look forward to working with you in this new position and we wish you much continued success in your career.

## Upcoming Birthdays

### April

- Joe Hoy
- Ken Mankel
- Tim Johnson
- Charles DePauw
- Matt Smalley
- Tyler Akin
- Rob McGill
- Kurt Newcomb
- Tony Seaborn

### May

- Don Orr
- Nate Akin
- Walter Ruhling
- Kaden Gnuse
- Kevin Coon
- Matt Diehl
- Mark Heintzelman
- Brett Tomkinson
- Branden Luscher

### June

- Luke Hansen
- Diana Turner
- Joshua Johnson
- Bill Draper
- Conner Miller
- Kevin Arnold
- Carter Brownell
- Brent Hoffman
- Dave Bean
- Connor Somerfield
- Kris VanOcker
- Dennis Paulson
- Austin Gustafson
- Deb Jones

## Upcoming Holiday

Greenville Tool & Die will be closed for the upcoming holiday:

### Memorial Day

**Monday, May 27, 2024**

*Remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice.*



## KCTC Job Shadows at GTD

Greenville Tool & Die hosted 5 students from the Kent Career Technical Center for a job shadow experience on March 13, 2024. These students shadowed some of GTD's knowledgeable employees and received demonstrations in toolpathing, mill set up, CNC 5 axis milling, etc. It was a pleasure hosting KCTC students.

Special thanks to the following GTD employees for providing this opportunity: Harmony Battreall, Mark Cazier, Mandy Christian, Kerry Dobbrastine, Matt Edwards, Nick Feuerstein, Gordon Garvey, Matt Greenhoe, Austin Gustafson, Bill Harry, Dennis Paulson, Mike L Smith, Kris VanOcker, and Tony Walker



## GTD Welcomes the GHS Robotics Team



Greenville High School Robotics Team had a tour of GTD on February 16, 2024. It is always a pleasure to have students and teachers visit and tour the facility and see the trade in action. A thank you to GTD's Harmony Battreall, Mark Cazier, Mandy Christian, and Joe Hoy for leading the tour.

## Email List

Did you know that the ToolBits Newsletter can be emailed directly to you instead of waiting for it to come in the mail? If you would like a digital copy instead, please send an email to [hschmeltzer@gtc.com](mailto:hschmeltzer@gtc.com) and get on the email list today.



2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter ToolBits will come out the beginning of July 2024

## Blood Drives

### Dec 6, 2023 - Blood Drive News:

Thirty-nine employees donated blood at the Dec 6<sup>th</sup> blood drive held at GTD. The following reached milestones.



- D J Shinabarger – 1 Gallon
- Bill Harry – 3 Gallons
- Ryan Teegardin – 4 Gallons
- Eric Mills – 2 Gallons
- Seth Heckman – 4 Gallons
- Kris VanOcker – 7 Gallons

### Feb 8, 2024 - Blood Drive News:

Twenty-eight employees donated blood at the Feb 8<sup>th</sup> blood drive held at GTD. The following reached milestones.



- Kevin Arnold – 8 Gallons
- Jorge Avalos – 1 Gallon
- Jordan Melching – 5 Gallons

The Blood Drives for 2024 will be as follows:

- Wednesday, April 3, 2024,
- Wednesday, June 12, 2024,
- Wednesday, August 14, 2024,
- Thursday, October 10, 2024
- Wednesday, December 11, 2024



Thank you all for your generosity to this worthy cause. In 2023, your donations saved up to 1020 lives!

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