

# CITY OF MUSCATINE



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## BOCHE NAMED 2025 MUSCABUS DRIVER OF THE YEAR

Veteran driver enjoys interacting with passengers; loves job and fellow workers

**MUSCATINE, Iowa** – Passengers aboard the MuscaBus shuttle during the 2024 holiday season may have received a festive surprise—courtesy of a jolly driver in a red suit and white beard. That driver was Jurgen Boche, who has been named the 2025 MuscaBus Driver of the Year.

Boche's holiday spirit wasn't just seasonal cheer—it was a continuation of a long-standing family tradition.

"For more than 30 years, I dressed as Santa while my brother, Kurt, played the elf. We visited families



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around the community during the holidays,” Boche said. “Last year, I brought that tradition to the shuttle. The passengers loved it—and so did I.”

A retired HNI employee, Boche began driving for MuscaBus after a friend encouraged him to stay active and involved in the community.

“I really enjoy the interaction—with both the riders and our team,” he said. “It’s a great way to stay connected with people.”

That positive attitude and dedication to service helped earn Boche this year’s top driver honor. He will represent MuscaBus at the Iowa Public Transit Association’s annual meeting and training conference, July 16–19 in Coralville. A formal recognition ceremony will take place during the awards dinner on July 18.

Boche was born in Schweinfurt, Germany, and immigrated to the United States at age eight with his mother and 12 siblings. His warm personality—and cultural flair—often shine through during his shifts.

“When it’s just you and a rider on the shuttle, there’s time to talk—and sometimes, I even yodel for them,” he laughed. “It usually gets a smile.”

Outside of work, Boche enjoys life with his wife, Jan; their grown children, Jason and Jessica; and their grandchildren, Dylan, who turns 10 in June, and Maddie, who turns seven in August. “I love being outside and keeping busy,” he said. “My wife says I always need a project. I enjoy golfing, biking, and working in the yard.”

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MuscaBus employees are eligible for Driver of the Year consideration after meeting several criteria, including working a minimum of 780 hours, maintaining a clean driving record, having no documented complaints or incidents, and attending at least 95% of scheduled shifts.

“Jurgen not only met those expectations—he exceeded them,” said Amy Fortenbacher, Public Transit Supervisor for MuscaBus. “We’re proud to have him represent us.”

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