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BWiC Tradeswoman of the Year: I-Leika McLean, Local 1421 Building Wreckers Union

March 30, 2018 - Spotlights

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Nominated by Danielle Skilling of Gilbaine Building Company

Leik is a strong women, a hard worker, a true friend, an incredible mother, a widow who carries so much love, which you can see reflected most clearly in her two daughters and her son.

However, she is so much more than that. She is an inspiration. Not only does Leik go to work and “do her job” every day – as she has been for 20 years, she serves as an inspiration to others. Countless women can attribute their careers in the trades to Leik - cousins, nieces, friends, etc. This is fitting as it was an aunt who pointed Leik in the direction of the trades. Her aunt told her about opportunities in the construction field and sent her to get her asbestos license. In true Leik style, once she had her license she showed up at a job site, demanded a job and was hired on the spot.

She has been forging the way for women in the construction industry ever since. If there was ever a woman who deserved to be recognized for overcoming adversity, excelling in her trade and inspiring others, Leik is that woman.

I hope that you all find her as amazing as I do!

New England Real Estate Journal - 17 Accord Park Drive #207, Norwell MA 02061 - (781) 878-4540