

3. Journeyman welder

Terry, 60, has been a journeyman, or travelling, welder for nearly 30 years. He originally learned his trade in the U.S. Navy. Since then he has earned many other certifications required for advancement in his field and is paid very well based on his skills and experience.

For his work, Terry travels a lot, moving from contract to contract. Some of these can be as short as two to three weeks. As a result, he doesn't have a home base, but lives out of an RV. When a contract ends (which is also when his pay ends), he packs up and moves to his next contract, which may be hundreds to thousands of miles away. Since he's only paid when he's working, it's important that Terry have another contract lined up before his current one ends.

Though the work is often dangerous (heavy equipment, exposure to the elements, etc.) and the travel can be tiring, Terry has always loved to travel. He has been able to see much of the country during his long career, and he makes good money. Despite that, he's started thinking about retirement. With all the places he's traveled throughout his career, it's going to be hard to choose where to settle down.