

# TIME

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## **TIME MAGAZINE AND GOODYEAR HONOR HUDSON DEALER**

### **Thomas Castriota Wins National Recognition for Community Service and Industry Accomplishments at NADA Convention**

(San Francisco, CA, February 5, 2011) – Thomas Castriota, Dealer at Castriota Chevrolet, a Chevrolet dealership in Hudson, Florida, was named the 2011 TIME Dealer of the Year today.

Castriota received this highest honor out of a select group of dealers from across the country recognized at the 94<sup>th</sup> annual National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) Convention & Exposition in San Francisco on Saturday. The announcement of this year's national Dealer of the Year and finalists was made by Kim Kelleher, Publisher of TIME, and Johann Finkelmeier, Vice President and General Manager – Original Equipment N.A. Consumer Tire, The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, at the opening of the convention, expected to draw 15,000+ individuals involved in the auto industry.

The TIME Dealer of the Year award is one of the automobile industry's most prestigious and highly coveted awards for new-car dealers. Recipients are among the nation's most successful auto dealers, but they must also demonstrate a long-standing commitment to effective community service.

Castriota, 57, was chosen to represent the Tampa New Auto Dealers Association in the national competition--one of only 52 automobile dealers, from 17,000 nationwide, nominated for the 42<sup>nd</sup> annual award. The award is sponsored by TIME in association with Goodyear, and in cooperation with NADA. A panel of faculty members from the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan selects one finalist from each of the four NADA regions and one national Dealer of the Year.

“In 1993, my wife, Anita, and I came to Pasco County, Florida, to a community where we had no ties or bonds,” says Castriota. “We left Pittsburgh and the security of family and stable careers, but we knew that with hard work we could make the dealership successful and this area our home.”

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Castriota graduated from Pittsburgh's Upper St. Clair High, in 1971, and from Duquesne University, in 1975, where he majored in political science and history. In December 1975, Castriota was commissioned a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps, with whom he spent 26 years on active and reserve duty. After retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 2001, Castriota was recalled to active duty, at age 53, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2006-2007. In Iraq, Castriota was assigned to the Prime Minister of Iraq's Operation Center and to the Iraqi training command: Multi National Security Transition Command-Iraq (MNSTC-I). "During that time," he says, "I saw the makings of a new democracy: Iraq. Today, I believe my contributions – to our country and Iraq – will bring about a more secure world and new hope to the Iraqi people." For his service he was awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

In the area of community service, Castriota has a long and distinguished record of giving. As member, board member, past president and/or committee chair, Castriota has served or continues serve many charitable and not-for-profit organizations: the West Pasco Chamber of Commerce, Berkeley Preparatory School, the American Legion, the Marine Corps League, Bayonet Regional Medical Center, the United Way of Pasco, the Lighthouse for the Visually Impaired and Blind, Port Richey Rotary and the Trinity Rotary club (where he is a charter member), among others. He is a two-time recipient of Rotary International's Paul Harris Fellow Award, given "in appreciation of tangible and significant assistance given for the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations among peoples of the world."

Much of Castriota's service has targeted education – such as his work with the Pasco Schools Education Foundation, Saint Leo University's government bond board, the University of South Florida's Stavros School of Education and the dealership staff's support of Pasco and Hernando county schools via the "Administrators in the Work Place" program; and training and guidance for the Marchman Technical Education Center.

With all that, it's no surprise the West Pasco Chamber of Commerce named Castriota its Business of the Year in 2000; and the Florida Secretary of Education awarded him the State of Florida's Education Business of the Year award for his commitment to education. "It's very humbling when you're honored by your peers," says Castriota. "I have never used my community efforts as a way to promote business; I have always felt that as a business owner, you have to give back to your community and your country."

Nominated for the TIME Dealer of the Year award by Tanker Snyder, Executive Manager of the Tampa New Auto Dealers Association, Thomas Castriota and his wife, Anita, live in the Tampa area and have two children, Alex and Chrissy.

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