



American Truck Dealers

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Jay Ellison of Texas Nominated for National Truck Dealer of the Year

McLEAN, Va. (March 4, 2010) – Jay Ellison, president of French-Ellison Truck Center, Ltd. in San Antonio, Texas, was nominated for the American Truck Dealers/*Heavy Duty Trucking* Truck Dealer of the Year. The winner will be announced at the 47th annual ATD Convention and Expo in Orlando, Fla., on April 24.

Building the Business

Ellison began his career as a truck driver and mechanic. He started working in his family's dealership as a service writer in 1979. After working as service manager, service director, branch manager and vice president, he became dealership president in 2002.

Ellison attributes much of the company's success to the excellent work environment and opportunities for advancement provided to employees. Some of the dealership's senior management has been with the company for more than 30 years. While many of Ellison's competitors have changed ownership three to four times, French-Ellison has had a presence in the market since 1968, with the largest and best equipped facilities in the area, he says.

Honors, Awards and Service to the Industry

Ellison has earned several awards from Kenworth, including the highest honor of Kenworth Dealer of the Year in 2008. His dealership is a seven-time winner of the Kenworth Gold Award for Dealer Excellence.

Ellison served as a member of the Kenworth Dealer Council from 2005 to 2007 and as council chairman in 2008. He has been a member of the Texas Automobile Dealers Association since 1998.

Community Service

Ellison and his wife, Linda, live in Alamo Heights, Texas. He believes his most important contribution to his industry and community is the nearly 250 jobs his company provides.

The Award

The ATD/*Heavy Duty Trucking* Truck Dealer of the Year award recognizes excellence in dealership performance, industry leadership, civic contributions and community service. The winner and runner-up will be chosen by a panel of professors from Indiana University's Kelley School of Business.

About the ATD Convention

Several hundred of the nation's commercial truck dealers will convene in Orlando at the ATD convention, which runs April 23-26 at the Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center. In addition to naming the truck dealer of the year, the winners of ATD Commercial Truck of the Year for new medium- and heavy-duty trucks sold in the United States will be announced April 25 at the convention.

Convention keynote speakers are Kyle Treadway, ATD chairman and Kenworth dealer from Salt Lake City, Utah; Dennis Slagle, president and CEO, North American Trucks (Volvo and Mack); and Jim Meil, economist for the Eaton Corp. Dealers will also have an opportunity to meet face-to-face with their manufacturer representatives at 12 franchise meetings and with suppliers on the expo floor. More than a dozen workshop sessions will be offered for dealers and their managers to learn ways to improve their business operations. For more information, visit www.atd.org/convention.

About ATD

Founded in 1970, the ATD division of the National Automobile Dealers Association is the only national organization representing dealers selling new medium- and heavy-duty trucks. For more information, visit www.atd.org.

Editor's note: For a high-res photo and logos, contact Laura Withers at lawithers@nada.org.

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