

# TIME

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## **TIME MAGAZINE AND GOODYEAR HONOR NATIONAL CITY DEALER**

### **John Ball Wins National Recognition for Community Service and Industry Accomplishments at NADA Convention**

(Orlando, FL, February 13, 2010) – John Ball, President of Ball Automotive Group, an Acura, Suzuki, Mitsubishi, Honda and Kia dealership in National City, California, was honored today for his nomination for the 2010 TIME Magazine Dealer of the Year award.

Ball was one of a select group of dealers from across the country honored at the 93<sup>rd</sup> annual National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) Convention & Exposition in Orlando today. The announcement of this year's Dealer of the Year and finalists was made by Mark Ford, President and Group Publisher of TIME Magazine, and Johann Finkelmeier, Vice President & General Manager - Original Equipment N.A. Consumer Tire, The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, at the formal opening of the convention, which is attended by more than 25,000 individuals involved in the automobile industry.

The TIME Magazine 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.

Ball, 56, was chosen to represent the New Car Dealers Association San Diego County in the national competition--one of only 45 automobile dealers, from 17,000 nationwide, nominated for the 41st annual award. The award is sponsored by TIME Magazine 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.

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Ball first started working at a car dealership in 1969, when, at age 15, he began washing cars for his father, John David Ball Sr., who had just opened Ball Oldsmobile, a single store in National City. During high school, Ball worked his way through the parts department, the body shop and service drive as well as used car wholesale.

After graduating from Bonita (CA) Vista High School in 1971, Ball earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management from San Diego State University, class of 1976.

That same year he launched his career in automobile sales working for Lamb Chevrolet in National City. He spent another year in sales at nearby Frank Lincoln Mercury, but in 1978, he moved back to his father's store as a veteran salesman.

Over the years, Ball climbed steadily through the ranks of his father's dealership, moving from Sales Manager to General Manager to Vice President, and, finally, in 1999, he became President of what he had helped grow into the Ball Automotive Group.

Today, each franchise -- Acura, Suzuki, Mitsubishi, Honda and Kia -- has its own showroom, service and parts department. And the family legacy carries on with John II's daughter, Jenifer, 30, now in her eighth year at Ball Automotive Group, serving as the business's Office Manager.

But family is just one example of loyalty at Ball -- more than a third of the dealership staff has been there for 10 years or more, and four employees have been on staff for 20 years, plus one who has been there since opening in 1969. And the Ball family's loyalty and long-standing commitment to National City has been demonstrated across the decades through consistent charitable and community service efforts. In particular, Ball has been a loyal contributor to local organizations such as the Boy Scouts and the Boys & Girls Club of National City.

John Ball was nominated for the TIME Magazine Dealer of the Year award by Dean B. Mansfield, President of the New Car Dealers Association San Diego County.

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