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TIME MAGAZINE AND GOODYEAR HONOR MINOT DEALER

Kathleen Gaddie Wins National Recognition for Community Service and Industry Accomplishments at NADA Convention

(Orlando, FL, February 13, 2010) – Kathleen Gaddie, Owner/Operator of Ryan Chevrolet, a Chevrolet dealership in Minot, North Dakota, was named one of four regional finalists for the 2010 TIME Magazine Dealer of the Year award today.

Gaddie was one of a select group of dealers from across the country honored at the 93rd annual National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) Convention & Exposition in Orlando on Saturday. 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.

Gaddie, 60, was chosen to represent the Automobile Dealers Association of North Dakota 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.

“Being nominated for TIME Dealer of the Year is a huge honor,” says Gaddie, “My father was chosen in 1986 and made it as a finalist. Ever since, I have had this as a personal goal. My father died in 2008, and I wish he could have been alive to see this.”

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Gaddie graduated from St. James High School in Grand Forks, ND, in 1967, and then earned a Bachelor of Science degree in English, Speech and Theatre at the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, MN, in 1971. She spent the next 12 years working in the public school system of East Grand Forks, but then fate called, as did her father, James Ryan. “My father had been involved in the auto industry my whole life, and in 1973, he purchased the Chevrolet dealership in Minot,” explains Gaddie. “After 10 years, he invited my husband and I to join him and learn the automobile business.”

“We made the decision to join him and moved to Minot,” Gaddie says, “After two years of making sure my three young children had adjusted to the move, I started working at the dealership in 1985.” And now she’s been at that store for 24 straight years. At first, Gaddie worked as a Customer Satisfaction Coordinator. “I made customer satisfaction calls for sales and service,” she says. “After a year, I moved into the marketing manager position and became the spokesperson for the dealership. I learned a lot about creating the image of the store and selling that image to the community.” By 1993 Gaddie moved into sales management, and in 1996, Chevrolet recognized her as the dealer at Jim Ryan Chevrolet, Inc. After Gaddie’s father retired in 2000, she took over the reigns.

In community service, Gaddie has a distinguished track record. But it’s no surprise as, she says, “‘Treat other people the way you want to be treated’ is the motto my father and I have lived by.” It’s served Gaddie well running dealerships, but it’s also a reflection of her extensive charitable works. She’s a board member of the Minot Vocational Adjustment Workshop, which is dedicated to employment for the handicapped, the Minot Catholic Schools Foundation Board, St. Joseph’s Community Health Foundation, the Minot Area Development Corporation, the Trinity Health Foundation and the North Dakota Economic Development Foundation (by appointment of the Governor). In 2005, Gaddie was awarded the Governor’s Choice for Economic Development Volunteer Developer of the Year Award, and she says, “It was a huge honor to be recognized for assisting the state in its efforts to attract businesses and develop good jobs for our children.” Gaddie also serves on the Board of Regents for both Minot State University and for the University of Mary in Bismarck, ND. Among many other good works, she’s been a strong supporter of Driver’s Education for 25 years, and a 15-year member of PEO, an organization that champions women in furthering their education.

Nominated for the TIME Magazine Dealer of the Year award by Robert L. Lamp, President/CEO of the Automobile Dealers Association of North Dakota, Kathleen Gaddie and her husband, Michael, also represent GMC, Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep and Honda at their three other North Dakota dealerships, including their newest acquisition in Bismarck, Corwin Churchill Motors.

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