

# TIME

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

### **Wayne Gargus Wins National Recognition for Community Service and Industry Accomplishments at NADA Convention**

(Orlando, FL, February 13, 2010) – G. Wayne Gargus, President of Courtesy Buick GMC Truck, Inc., a Buick and GMC dealership in Birmingham, Alabama, was honored today for his nomination for the 2010 TIME Magazine Dealer of the Year award.

Gargus 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.

Gargus, 69, was chosen to represent the Automobile Dealers Association of Alabama 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.

“The success of my business,” says Gargus, “has allowed me to offer help to many organizations that help the citizens of our community, such as Toys for Tots and Alabama Goodwill.”

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Gargus began working as a very young boy in 1950 at his father's sawmill in Springville, AL. He got his start in the automobile business at McKay Motors of Oneonta in 1954, working in the parts department. He was young, alright, as it would be three more years before he graduated from Oneonta (AL) High School, class of 1957. That same year he got a job with NAPA, in Oneonta, working in parts. Some eight years later, the industrious Gargus was owner of his own parts business, Blounstville (AL) Parts.

In 1971, he opened his first GM dealership in Oneonta; it was called Gargus Pontiac Buick GMC. Eighteen years later, he owned another GM store in Ensley, AL, and put his full name on it: Wayne Gargus Pontiac Buick GMC. Gargus built his current Birmingham dealership in 1996, and his son, Timothy, serves as Vice President of the family business. Each year from 1996 through 2008, Gargus was a recipient of GM's Mark of Excellence award.

In the area of community service, Gargus also has a distinguished track record, having contributed regularly to a number of causes, such as Toys for Tots, the Jaycees, the Miss Alabama Pageant, Bell Center, the Lions Club, the Kings Daughters School, Alabama Goodwill, various youth sports organizations, and, in particular the U.S. Army's 20<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group, which is Birmingham, Alabama. "With help from the Army, we select a needy family of a deployed soldier and provide for their Christmas," explains Gargus. "To bring joy to a family that can't afford to pay a power bill or buy presents for their children because of the sacrifices they are making for our country, well, I believe that is what Christmas is all about." Gargus serves on both the Birmingham and Trussville Chambers of Commerce, and, in 2004, Goodwill honored him with its "Giver of the Year" award.

"My career in the automotive industry has been most rewarding," says Gargus, "because it allows me to work in a business that I have loved since I was a teenager while at the same time giving me the resources to provide for my family and for the families of my extended family—my loyal employees. Their hard work and professionalism has enabled me to be successful. Their effort has given me the time to participate by taking leadership roles in state and local associations and [the resources to] contribute to numerous charities and causes in my community."

G. Wayne Gargus was nominated for the TIME Magazine Dealer of the Year award by Thomas R. Dart, President of the Automobile Dealers Association of Alabama.

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