

# TIME

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

### **Mat Raymond Wins National Recognition for Community Service and Industry Accomplishments at NADA Convention**

(Orlando, FL, February 13, 2010) – Mat Raymond, President of Sanders Ford, Inc., a Ford dealership in Jacksonville, North Carolina, was honored today for his nomination for the 2010 TIME Magazine Dealer of the Year award.

Raymond 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.

Raymond, 64, was chosen to represent the North Carolina Automobile Dealers Association 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.

“At each stage of my career, I have felt privileged to be in the automotive industry,” says Raymond. “From the time I was named dealer-successor to the day my son joined me in the family business, I have felt very blessed.”

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Raymond joined Sanders Ford in 1970 after moving from Raleigh with his wife Elizabeth to work for her father Bruce J. Downey, Jr. Over the years, Raymond has performed many roles in the dealership. He has worked in parts and service, customer relations and sales, and has been general manager. “I became President of the dealership in 1995,” he says. In both 2006 and 2009, Raymond was nominated for Ford Motor Company’s “Salute to Dealers Award,” which recognizes dealer principals who generously work to improve their communities while providing outstanding products and services.

Raymond has a long and distinguished track record of community service. He has been an active member and served in a leadership capacity in numerous civic institutions, including United Way Onslow County, Coastal Carolina Community College Foundation, Onslow Memorial Hospital Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, The Hyde County Waterfowl Association, the Museum of the Marine Corps, the Jacksonville Rotary Club, The Greater Jacksonville-Onslow Chamber of Commerce, the Governor’s Committee on Military Affairs, North Carolina Community Foundations, Inc. He has also been a strong supporter of the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation.

Raymond was also a founding member of the North Carolina Automobile Dealers Association’s “Support Our Troops” Program which raised more than \$350,000 for families of those soldiers killed in the War on Terror. “It is an honor to be part of a business community that supports local, civic and charitable causes as well as one that supports one of the highest trained, most capable fighting forces in the world—the United States Marine Corps,” says Raymond. “It is an honor to support the Marine Corps and the freedom that they guarantee for all Americans.”

Raymond was a founding member of the North Carolina Automobile Dealers “Support Our Troops” Program which raised more than \$350,000 for families of those service members killed in the War on Terror. “It is an honor to be part of a business community that supports local, civic and charitable causes especially those associated with the best trained, most capable fighting forces in the world—the United States Marine Corps.”

Raymond is especially proud of having received the Jacksonville-Onslow Chamber of Commerce “Man of the Year Golden Eagle Award” in 1993. “Knowing the caliber of the previous recipients made this a humbling occasion.”

Mat Raymond was nominated for the TIME Magazine Dealer of the Year award by Robert J. Glaser, President of the North Carolina Automobile Dealers Association.

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