

# TIME

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

### **Hank Sitton Wins National Recognition for Community Service and Industry Accomplishments at NADA Convention**

(Orlando, FL, February 13, 2010) – Hank Sitton, President of Sitton Buick Pontiac GMC Saab, a Buick, Pontiac, GMC and Saab dealership in Greenville, South Carolina, was honored today for his nomination for the 2010 TIME Magazine Dealer of the Year award.

Sitton 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.

Sitton, 57, was chosen to represent the South 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.

"I am a third generation dealer," says Sitton, "Our dealership was started in 1943 by my grandfather, J. H. Sitton Sr., and I began working there part-time during high school."

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Sitton graduated from The McCallie School in Chattanooga, TN, in 1970, and then earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of South Carolina in Columbia in 1975.

The next year, Sitton began working fulltime at his family's Sitton Buick Pontiac GMC Saab dealership in Greenville, SC, starting off in fixed operations as a service advisor. And he's been at the dealership ever since. He soon moved on to the Parts Department, working in counter sales. "After several years," Sitton says, "I moved to the variable operations working first in sales and leasing, then as the finance and insurance manager, sales manager, and, eventually, I became the dealer in 1989." Today, Sitton's wife, Karen, works as the dealership's Customer Satisfaction Manager, while their daughter, Nicole, works in the accounting office. Sitton spent 14 years on the board of the South Carolina Automobile Dealers Association, serving as President in 2002.

In the area of community service, Sitton has a long and distinguished track record—he donates annually to Boys Home of the South, United Ministries, Meals on Wheels, Susan G. Komen, the American Cancer Society, the Presbyterian Boys Home, United Way of Greenville, Communities in Schools, Boy Scouts of America, Toys for Tots, A Child's Haven and the Salvation Army. In fact, Sitton's dealership received the United Way "Campaign Award of Excellence" each year from 1994-'98 and 2001-'03. Of serving on United Way's funding panel, Sitton says, "It was a very humbling experience getting to know and understand the needs of many of these groups and organizations."

Sitton serves on a number of boards, including Communities in Schools and the Blue Ridge Council of Boy Scouts of America. For more than 30 years Sitton provided driver ed vehicles to three local high schools, and he still provides them to three colleges: the University of South Carolina (since 2000), Clemson University (since 1983) and Furman University (since 1979). Sitton has been honored by the Rotary Club of Greenville, by the South Carolina Troopers Association, and by the local United States Marine Corps "Toys for Tots" program for his five years of sponsorship. "It gives everyone at the dealership a chance to show [the Marines] our support and thank them personally for their service to the country," Sitton says of his employees' Toys for Tots efforts, adding, "Over the last five years we have collected thousands of toys for local children in need."

Nominated for the TIME Magazine Dealer of the Year award by Patrick E. Watson, Executive Vice President of the South Carolina Automobile Dealers Association, Hank Sitton is a second generation TIME Dealer of the Year nominee as his late father was also nominated for the award for South Carolina in 1986.

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