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TIME AND ALLY FINANCIAL HONOR AVON DEALER

Terry Lee Wins National Recognition for Community Service and Industry Accomplishments at NADA Convention

(New York, NY, October 24, 2016) – The nomination of Terry Lee, president of Terry Lee Honda in Avon, Indiana, for the 2017 TIME Dealer of the Year award was announced today by TIME.

Lee is one of a select group of 49 dealer nominees from across the country who will be honored at the 100th annual National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) Convention & Exposition in New Orleans, Louisiana, on January 27, 2017. The announcement of this year's nominees was made by Meredith Long, SVP: GM, News & Luxury, TIME, and Tim Russi, president of Auto Finance for Ally Financial.

"We are excited about the extraordinary group of nominees that are in the running for the 2017 TIME Dealer of the Year award," said Russi. "These dealers have been recognized for the ways that they 'do it right' in their communities, and we look forward to sharing their stories over the next few months and celebrating their accomplishments at the NADA convention in January."

In its sixth year as exclusive sponsor, Ally will recognize dealer nominees and their community efforts by contributing \$1,000 to each nominee's 501(c)3 charity of choice. Nominees will also be recognized on **AllyDealerHeroes.com**, which highlights the philanthropic contributions and achievements of TIME Dealer of the Year nominees.

The TIME Dealer of the Year award is one of the automobile industry's most prestigious and highly coveted honors. Recipients are among the nation's most successful auto dealers who also demonstrate a long-standing commitment to community service. Lee, 65, was chosen to represent the Automobile Dealers Association of Indiana in the national competition – one of only 49 auto dealers from 16,000 nationwide – nominated for the 48th annual award. The award is sponsored by TIME in association with Ally Financial, and in cooperation with NADA. A panel of faculty members from the Tauber Institute for Global Operations at the University of Michigan will select one finalist from each of the four NADA regions and one national Dealer of the Year.

"I love the car business as much – or more today – as I did at age 21," nominee Lee said. "Over the years, I've had the opportunity to meet with many other dealers, and with each encounter, I've sensed an immediate kinship between us because we know what it takes to be successful."

Lee is a 1969 graduate of Arlington High School in Indianapolis, Indiana, and he attended Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). From an early age, he knew he had a gift for sales. "Like most kids, I delivered newspapers, but it wasn't long before I put my salesmanship to work peddling things like pieces of marble and regrooved tires door-to-door," he remembered. "I even offered babysitting services to my mother's friends."

He made enough money from his enterprises to leave home at the age of 17 and started his career right after high school. "I landed a job at a finance company as an outside loan collector," Lee said. "Of course, we usually think of the 'repo man' as an imposing figure. But I was a guy who wrestled in the 105-pound weight class in high school, so I had to rely on my power of persuasion to excel in that position."

And he did. After several promotions, he was interacting with car dealers and was also buying and selling cars as a side job. "These early experiences helped me to understand that the automobile business was my true calling," Lee said.

He was hired as finance manager for Tom Wood Pontiac Mazda in Indianapolis in 1972 and then general manager at Lockhart Cadillac, also in Indianapolis, in 1980. His previous employer, Tom Wood, invited Lee to invest in another dealership and after 10 years working there, he bought his own – Terry Lee Chevrolet in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1995. "Despite the 'over-dealered' condition of the Chevy market in Cincinnati, we became a sales leader in a just a few years, surpassing more than two dozen established competitors," he said.

In 2008, Lee saw new opportunities in Indianapolis and decided the timing was right to sell the Cincinnati dealership. His first store was Terry Lee Honda in Avon, which continues to grow in sales. He has also built a commercial development, Terry Lee Crossing in Noblesville, which is home to his Hyundai franchise.

"It's not an easy road when you consider the long hours, intense pressure and numerous challenges we all face daily, but I think we also feel it is worth it," Lee said. "To have a vision and to see it come to life, while having such a profound impact on the people we hire, the relationships we build and the customers we serve, is very gratifying." And he is proud that Terry Lee Honda was recently named by *Automotive News* and *The Indianapolis Star* as top places to work. "These awards are most important to me because they reflect the positive environment in my company," he said.

And that positive energy extends to the community at large. For the past four years, Lee has sponsored closed captioning for the deaf and hearing impaired on his local affiliate television stations. He also supports Samantha's House in Indianapolis, a group that aids the disabled and injured, as well as many local charities and sporting events.

Lee was nominated for the TIME Dealer of the Year award by Martin Murphy, executive vice president of the Automobile Dealers Association of Indiana.

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