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TIME AND ALLY FINANCIAL HONOR COLUMBIA DEALER

George Doetsch III Wins National Recognition for Community Service
and Industry Accomplishments at NADA Show

(New York, NY, October 21, 2019) – The nomination of George Doetsch III, president and CEO of Apple Ford Lincoln in Columbia, Maryland, for the 2020 TIME Dealer of the Year award was announced today by TIME.

Doetsch is one of a select group of 49 dealer nominees from across the country who will be honored at the 103rd annual National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) Show in Las Vegas on February 15, 2020. The announcement of this year's annual award was made by Susanna Schrobsdorff, chief partnerships officer, TIME, and Doug Timmerman, president of Auto Finance for Ally Financial.

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. Doetsch, 53, was chosen to represent the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association in the national competition – one of only 49 auto dealers nominated for the 51st annual award from more than 16,000 nationwide.

“One of the core values of our business is giving back to our community,” nominee Doetsch said. “I believe we all are part of a larger family and that giving back enriches everyone's lives. This is the most rewarding aspect of my career.”

And that career was cultivated when Doetsch spent time at the dealerships operated by his father, George Doetsch Jr., in Maryland in the 1970s and 1980s, washing cars and working as a lot attendant. During his college years at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, where he earned a BBA in finance in 1991, Doetsch held various jobs in the retail automotive industry before becoming a financial consultant.

“I came to realize that finance was not my true calling,” he said. “I returned to Maryland in the early 1990s to join my father at Monument Ford in Baltimore.” The franchise was later relocated to Columbia and renamed Apple Ford.

“The business has grown exponentially since its early days in Columbia, and now, after reaching our 25th anniversary this year, the dealership is stronger than ever,” he said. “I believe that the dedicated staff of employees surrounding me drives our business success, and that happy employees lead to even happier customers.”

Today, Doetsch is a majority owner of the dealership and continues to work with his father, as well as his son, Edward, who is used car sales manager at Apple Ford Lincoln. They have also added a second dealership in Elkton, Maryland.

Both Doetsch and his father share a passion for giving back to the community and developed a charitable giving program to enhance the quality of life in areas where they do business. “This program is highly lauded and has reinvested upwards of one million dollars annually in Howard County and the state of Maryland,” he said. “I am most proud of all that it does for our local community.”

In 2013, Doetsch and his father were co-honored and named Philanthropist of the Year for a lifetime of charitable giving by the Community Foundation of Howard County, which raises and distributes funds to support nonprofit organizations in the region. “Over the years, our financial contributions and other in-kind gifts have helped support their mission, providing necessary resources to improve lives and enhance the community,” he said.

Doetsch is also proud of receiving the 2012 Howard County Good Scout Award from the Boy Scouts of America in the Baltimore Area Council, National Pike District. This honor, which he also shared with his father, is awarded to individuals who contribute to the community while exemplifying the tenets of scouting.

Beyond his local community, Doetsch has held leadership roles for the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association (WANADA), including secretary, vice chairman elect, treasurer and board member. “I have actively supported the mission of the association by advancing the automobile business in the marketplace and advocating on behalf of dealer members, their employees and their customers,” he said. “I know the work we do will have a lasting impact on dealerships, dealers and the thousands of employees that work for them for many years to come.”

Doetsch has also lent his time and talent to the board of the University of Maryland Children’s Hospital in Baltimore (2002 to present); Howard Community College in Columbia (2007 to 2011) and the Howard County Chamber in Columbia (2008 to 2012).

Dealers are nominated by the executives of state and metro dealer associations around the country. 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. Three finalists will receive an additional \$5,000 for their favorite charities and the winner will receive an additional \$10,000 to give to charity.

In its ninth 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**.

“The award applauds the incredible effort each of these dealers put into their businesses and their communities,” said Doug Timmerman, President of Auto Finance at Ally. “They are influential business leaders and admired ambassadors for worthy causes. It’s an honor for Ally to recognize their generosity and impact in cities and towns across America.”

Doetsch was nominated for the TIME Dealer of the Year award by John P. O'Donnell, president and CEO of the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association. He and his wife, Kelly, have four children.

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For more information and disclosures about Ally, visit <https://www.ally.com/#disclosures>.

About the NADA Show

The annual NADA Show brings together more than 20,000 franchised dealers and their employees, industry leaders, manufacturers and exhibitors to learn about the latest auto industry tools, trends, products and technologies.