



## AMERICA'S CAR MUSEUM®

### **NASCAR Legend Rick Hendrick to be Honored with Nicola Bulgari Award from America's Car Museum**

*Race team owner to be recognized at Wheels & Heels Gala on June 26 for preserving American automotive heritage*

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TACOMA, Wash. (Apr. 29, 2015) – America's Car Museum (ACM) will award the Nicola Bulgari Award to Hendrick Motorsports owner, Hendrick Automotive Group chairman and automobile collector Rick Hendrick, to recognize his contributions to the automotive industry and promoting America's automotive heritage. The award will be given on June 26th at ACM's Wheels & Heels Annual Gala.

Among the most highly respected NASCAR team owners, Hendrick is an instantly recognizable face in automotive racing. Founded in 1984, Hendrick Motorsports holds a record 11 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series owner's championships and currently fields winning drivers Kasey Kahne, Jeff Gordon, Jimmie Johnson and Dale Earnhardt Jr. Both Johnson and Kahne's race cars are currently on display at the Museum.

"My dad and I built a 1931 Chevrolet together when I was 14," said Hendrick, who today is an avid car collector and preservationist. "He had a contagious passion for automobiles, and I have wonderful memories of working on cars with him and going to racetracks all over the country. Whether it's through selling, racing or collecting, I'm fortunate to be around cars of all kinds and have relationships with so many enthusiasts and preservationists. I'm humbled to share this incredible honor with them."

Hendrick's love for automobiles stretches back more than five decades, when as a 14-year-old he drag raced that same '31 Chevy and planted the seeds of a highly fruitful automotive racing career. After more than thirty years of fielding stock car teams, Hendrick leads all owners in modern-era NASCAR Cup victories.

In 1976, the 26-year-old Hendrick took a chance by selling off his assets to purchase a struggling franchise in Bennettsville, South Carolina, thus becoming the youngest Chevrolet dealer in the United States. Bennettsville's success was a precursor to Hendrick Automotive Group, which today operates collision centers, accessories distributor installers and more than 130 retail franchises across 13 states.

Headquartered in Charlotte, North Carolina and employing more than 10,000 people, the company now is the largest privately held dealership group in the United States.

The Nicola Bulgari Award, named after the famous luxury jewelry designer and avid car collector, is awarded annually to individuals who make significant contributions to preserving America's automotive heritage through education, car restoration and collecting classic cars. Past recipients



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include Dr. Frederick Simeone, founder of the Simeone automotive Museum, Edward Welburn, vice president of global design for General Motors and McKeel Hagerty, president and CEO of Hagerty. “We only present the Nicola Bulgari Award to those at the pinnacle of the collector car culture,” said ACM President & CEO David Madeira. “Rick has taken a lifelong passion for cars and touched the lives of countless individuals through contributions to the NASCAR community, industry education programs and the collector car industry.”

Hendrick has made a significant impact on improving the lives of others through various charitable endeavors, including the Hendrick Marrow Program, a nonprofit group that works in partnership with the Be the Match Foundation, raising funds to support patients in need of life-saving transplants. He and his family also were instrumental in supporting the Joe Hendrick Center for Automotive Technology, a facility at Charlotte’s Central Piedmont Community College that provides training to prepare students for future careers in the automotive industry.

This year’s [Wheels & Heels Annual Gala](#) is themed “Kentucky Derby: A Celebration of Horsepower,” and will include live Bluegrass music, gourmet cuisine and fireworks.

### **About LeMay – America’s Car Museum ([americascarmuseum.org](http://americascarmuseum.org))**

America’s Car Museum (ACM), named one of *USA Today’s* 10 Best Museums in Seattle and KING 5’s 2014 Best Museum in Western Washington, is an international destination where families and enthusiasts gather to celebrate America’s love affair with the automobile and how it shaped our society. The stunning, four-level, 165,000-sq.-ft. Tacoma, Wash., facility features 12 rotating exhibits, five annual Signature Events and serves as an educational center, hosting students of all ages. For more information on ACM, visit [americascarmuseum.org](http://americascarmuseum.org).

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