

AMERICA'S
AUTOMOTIVE
Trust

America's Automotive Trust to Honor Rod Alberts with Nicola Bulgari Award for his Lifelong Contributions to America's Automotive Heritage

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TACOMA, Wash. (Sept. 4, 2019) – America's Automotive Trust (AAT) has announced that Rod Alberts will receive the Nicola Bulgari Award as part of the organization's [Wheels & Heels Annual Gala](#), taking place at LeMay – America's Car Museum (ACM) on September 7 in Tacoma, Washington.

Alberts, who is the Executive Director of the Detroit Auto Dealers Association (DADA) and the North American International Auto Show (NAIAS), was instrumental in launching the LeMay Collection and ACM to the world. In 2003, then ACM President David Madeira worked with Alberts to secure space at NAIAS to launch "Drive for America's Car Museum."

Alberts and Madeira (now Vice Chairman of AAT) continued to build upon that partnership by co-creating "The Drive Home" series, an annual cross-country vintage car rally to NAIAS that promotes America's automotive heritage ahead of the Detroit show. The Drive Home has reached nearly every corner of America, generating interest and awareness of NAIAS and AAT's mission with countless people throughout the country.

"Rod's creativity, encouragement and leadership over the years have provided immense help to America's Car Museum and the Trust as we promote America's automotive heritage. The partnership with NAIAS provides an invaluable endorsement of our relevance to today's automotive culture," said Madeira. "For these reasons we are proud to honor Rod as the 2019 Nicola Bulgari Award recipient, and we thank Nicola for his selection and for enabling us to make this distinguished annual award in his name."

The Nicola Bulgari Award – named after the famous luxury goods magnate, renowned car collector and AAT board member – is presented annually in recognition of an individual's lifelong efforts to promote America's automotive heritage through education, car restoration and/or collecting classic cars.

Prior Bulgari Award winners include Jay Leno; GM Designer Ed Welburn; Hemming's publisher Jim Menneto, RM Group founder Rob Myers, NASCAR team owner Rick Hendrick; McKeel Hagerty, CEO of Hagerty; Dr. Frederick Simeone, founder of the Simeone Automotive Museum; and Amelia Island Concours Founder Bill Warner.

During his 30 year tenure at NAIAS, Alberts has provided strong, creative leadership and ensured the auto show's position as our nation's most prominent automotive event, bringing international media attention to Detroit and the American automotive industry.

For more information on AAT, visit www.aat.org.

About America's Automotive Trust

America's Automotive Trust (AAT), headquartered in Tacoma, Washington, is a not-for-profit corporation that seeks to secure America's automotive heritage and to transfer the skills and knowledge necessary for the future of collector vehicles and the enthusiast community for generations to come. AAT is made up of four founding members: LeMay – America's Car Museum, the RPM Foundation, Club Auto and the Concours Club.

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