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TIME Dealer of the Year
Tim Slattery
Tennessee Automotive Association

TIME AND ALLY FINANCIAL HONOR FRANKLIN DEALER

**Billy Walker Wins National Recognition for Community Service and
Industry Accomplishments**

(New York, NY, October 14, 2026) – The nomination of Billy Walker, president of Walker Chevrolet in Franklin, Tennessee, for the 2027 TIME Dealer of the Year award was announced today by TIME.

Walker is one of a select group of 48 dealer nominees from across the country who will be honored at the 110th annual National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) Show in Orlando, Florida, on February 19, 2027.

The TIME Dealer of the Year award is one of the automobile industry's most prestigious and highly coveted honors. The award recognizes the nation's most successful auto dealers who also demonstrate a long-standing commitment to community service. Walker was chosen to represent the Tennessee Automotive Association in the national competition – one of only 48 auto dealers nominated for the 58th annual award from more than 20,000 nationwide.

“This nomination is an incredible honor, and I am proud to represent our employees, customers, family and Tennessee’s automotive community,” Walker said. “Walker Chevrolet has been part of Franklin for 100 years, and this recognition belongs to everyone who has helped us reach this milestone.”

Walker began learning the automotive business at age 14 by working in various roles at his father's dealerships. He earned a bachelor's degree in business from Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro in 1980 and completed the GM School of Merchandising and Management in Detroit that same year.

After graduating, Walker began working full time at Walker Chevrolet. His experience in numerous dealership positions allowed him to learn the business from the ground up before becoming dealer principal in 1995.

"Working in different roles taught me the value of understanding every part of the dealership," Walker said. "It also showed me that lasting success is built on trust—with employees, customers and the community."

Walker Chevrolet was founded in 1926 and has operated in the same community under the Walker family name for a century.

"Our family name has been connected to this dealership for generations, and we do not take that responsibility lightly," Walker said. "We want every customer to know that we are committed to serving Franklin today and remaining part of this community well into the future."

When Walker became dealer principal in 1995, he opened a new facility and began the dealership's next chapter.

Walker Chevrolet employs 71 people, including 11 employees who have worked at the dealership for more than a decade. Five have remained with the organization for more than 20 years.

"Our employees are the people who bring Walker Chevrolet's values to life each day," Walker said. "We strive to recognize good work, reward dedication and create a culture where employees know that their service is respected and appreciated."

"The automotive industry is constantly changing, but our priorities remain the same," Walker said. "We want to take care of our employees, provide an excellent experience for our customers and continue earning the loyalty of the people we serve."

Walker has served on the Tennessee Automotive Association's board of directors. And has been a member of its executive committee and a regional vice chairman. In those roles, he has advocated before local and state officials on issues affecting automobile dealers and their customers.

In 2026, Walker received the Robert V. Weaver Award, the Tennessee Automotive Association's highest honor recognizing dealer leadership and community involvement. "I have been fortunate

to work alongside dealers who care deeply about the future of our industry,” Walker said. “Our association gives us an opportunity to share insights; address important issues and advocate for the businesses and communities we represent.”

Walker has been a member of the Franklin Rotary since 1990. Through Walker Chevrolet, he supports Williamson County youth sports and community events, including local radio initiatives, county fairs and other programs serving residents throughout the area.

“We are intentional about supporting activities where our customers and employees live,” Walker said. “Our long-term commitment to Franklin is one of the reasons we have developed such a loyal customer base.”

For Walker, celebrating the dealership’s 100th anniversary is one of the most rewarding achievements of his automotive career.

“To remain in business for 100 years with our family name is an extraordinary privilege,” Walker said. “It is even more meaningful to celebrate that history with the longtime employees and customers who have been part of our journey.”

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

In its 16th year as exclusive sponsor, Ally also will recognize dealer nominees and their community efforts by contributing \$1,000 to each nominee’s 501(c)3 charity of choice. Nominees will 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 program recognizes dealers who pair excellence in the automotive industry with an enduring commitment to the communities they serve,” said Jessica Sibley, CEO of TIME. “TIME is proud to partner with Ally to celebrate their achievements and spotlight the standard of leadership they set across the country.”

"Great dealerships are built by people, and the 2027 TIME Dealer of the Year nominees prove it," said Doug Timmerman, President of Dealer Financial Services, Ally Financial. "These leaders invest in the teams who help customers through one of the biggest purchases of their lives and show up for the communities they call home. We've seen it firsthand at Ally, where dealers who

lead this way do it not for recognition, but because it's who they are. That's what it means to do it right, and we're proud to celebrate it."

Walker was nominated for the TIME Dealer of the Year award by the Tennessee Automotive Association.

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About TIME

TIME is the 102-year-old global media brand that reaches a combined audience of over 120 million around the world through its iconic magazine and digital platforms. With unparalleled access to the world's most influential people, the trust of consumers and partners globally, and an unrivaled power to convene, TIME's mission is to tell the essential stories of the people and ideas that shape and improve the world. Today, TIME also includes the Emmy Award®-winning film and television division TIME Studios; a significantly expanded live events business built on the powerful TIME100 and Person of the Year franchises and custom experiences; TIME for Kids, which provides trusted news with a focus on news literacy for kids and valuable resources for teachers and families; the award-winning branded content studio Red Border by TIME, and more.

About Ally Financial

Ally Financial Inc. (NYSE: ALLY) includes the nation's largest all-digital bank and an industry leading auto finance business, driven by a mission to "Do It Right" for its customers and communities. Ally is a U.S. financial holding company with \$200 billion in assets and 9.6 million customers (June 30, 2026). Ally Bank, Member FDIC, offers online banking products, including high-yield savings and no hidden fee checking, and was the first major U.S. bank to eliminate overdraft fees. Ally also provides investing solutions through Ally Invest, including online brokerage, automated investing, IRAs and personal financial advice. As a leader in auto finance, Ally provides consumer and dealer financing, insurance, and vehicle remarketing services. Ally's seasoned corporate finance business provides capital to equity sponsors and middle-market companies. Visit [ally.com](https://www.ally.com).

About the NADA Show

The National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA), founded in 1917, represents more than 16,000 light-vehicle and commercial-truck dealerships with 32,500 domestic and international franchises. New-vehicle franchised dealers are directly responsible for more than one million U.S. jobs.