



the HENRY FORD HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Henry Ford Heritage Association Announces Annual Awards

Dearborn, Michigan, July 30, 2014

Each year the Henry Ford Heritage Association (HFHA) holds an annual meeting and dinner on the anniversary of Henry Ford's birth. This year's event was held at the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House in Grosse Pointe Shores, the former estate of Henry's son Edsel Ford. It was at this event that the association announced its 2014 award recipients in four categories, each recognizes the contribution to continuing and adding to the history of the tinker turned titan, Henry Ford.

The 2014 awards are as follows:

Individual Friend of Ford Award: Charlie Davis Jr. of St. Clare Shores, Michigan.

Charlie Davis Jr. has a direct link to the Ford family. He grew up in Dearborn and attended the Greenfield Village School. As a child he knew Henry and Clara Ford, but equally so he knew many of the individuals associated with Henry. People like Harry Bennett, Edsel Ruddiman, and William J. Cameron were some of the adults in his life. However it is his passion for preserving and sharing Henry Ford's history that he is receiving this award. Over the years this Friend of Ford has been an incredible resource to the Henry Ford Heritage Association. He has been an amazing source of stories, documentation, and connections that help us understand better Henry Ford, the people in his life, and the times and places they lived. This year's Friend of Ford freely shares his resources with anyone that asks and that is how articles and even books get written. And of his family connection to Henry Ford, his Aunt Margret was Henry's sister. It is with great pleasure that the Henry Ford Heritage Association awards our 2014 Individual Friend of Ford to Charlie Davis Jr.



Service Award: Richard and Ruth Gatza of Dearborn, Michigan.

Richard and Ruth Gatza are long time members of HFHA and have served on the Board of Directors for much of that time. Richard retired as a journeyman millwright from the Rouge after 40 years with the company. When his wife Ruth became a tour guide at the Henry Ford Estate, he took an interest in Henry Ford and his life. He became a tour guide at the Estate as well, working many events, and even played Santa for many years.

Later he volunteered at The Henry Ford and eventually went to work part-time at the Ford Rouge Plant where he is a master presenter at the Ford Rouge Factory Tour. There he has the opportunity to talk to people from all over the world, sharing a common interest in the life of Henry Ford.



Ruth began her life of volunteering by giving time to The Henry Ford Estate and now at The Henry Ford. She is also currently Vice President of the Detroit Historical Memorial Society and Recording Secretary for the Henry Ford Village retirement community where she and her husband Richard now live.

Both Richard and Ruth volunteer at the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House where each Christmas season Richard once again he plays Santa. They not only serve on the HFHA board but are active participants at our Henry Ford Quiz Show events and are part of the HFHA's speaker's bureau. Thus, we pay homage to Richard and Ruth Gatza as our Service Award recipients for 2014. This is the first time the HFHA has honored a couple for this distinguished recognition.

Organization Friend of Ford Award: The Early Ford V8 Foundation and Museum of Auburn, Indiana.

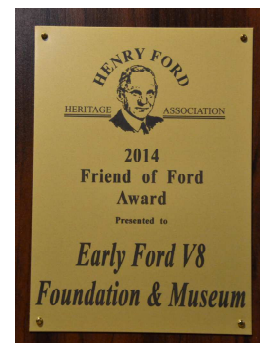
One of the seven partner organizations of the Henry Ford Heritage Association, the V8 Foundation was created in 1991 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit, educational organization dedicated to

"Preserving 1932-1953 Early Ford V-8 History."

This includes all related materials produced by the

Ford Motor Company during this period, including cars and trucks.

The ultimate goal of the Foundation is to have a complete facility dedicated to the 1932-1953 era of the Ford Motor Company. Located in Auburn, Indiana, Phase I of their planned complex has been constructed. The foundation is now raising funds to build the main museum building which will pay homage to the famous Ford Rotunda. In the meantime, an ongoing Foundation effort is to seek out and acquire significant and important pieces of Ford history from the flathead V8 era. The V8 Foundation supports HFHA activities such as our Henry Ford Quiz Show and provides invaluable research and articles through the contributions of their newsletter editor and member Frank Scheidt. It is with great appreciation for the mission of the V8 Foundation and for the contributions of material, time, and talent to HFHA that we award the Early Ford V8 Foundation and Museum our Organization Friend of Ford award of 2014.



Book Award: An Unheralded Education – Learning By Doing in Henry Ford’s Greenfield Village Schools by Joan A. Schultz of Oswego, Oregon, ISBN: 978-1-61220-068-2

When Joan Schultz was a little girl she would spend many a long, lazy, warm summer day with her friend Carol Horne. Carol would regale Joan with stories about the Suwannee Riverboat, the Victory Gardens, and McGuffey Readers used in her unique school. Carol would speak of morning services in the Martha Mary Chapel and lunches at the Clinton Inn. She would talk about her school friends Susie Audi, Peggy Poosch, and Sally Bollinger, among others.



Carol and her friends attended a most remarkable school known as the Edison Institute. Their classrooms were scattered among the many 19th century buildings of Henry Ford’s remarkable Greenfield Village. Joan was not able to attend Henry’s school, but she saw firsthand the results of Henry Ford’s education in the athletic ability, friendliness, attitude, and excellent academics of his students in her neighbors and friends that did attend the remarkable school at the Edison Institute.

After a career as an educator Joan remained fascinated by the educational ideas implemented by Henry Ford at his school and she set about to document the experience of former students. Now living in Lake Oswego Oregon, Joan sought out a number of those old friends who attended Henry’s school and put their stories to paper. She found in our own Charlie Davis Jr. an amazing resource of information and contacts and the result of their collaboration and Joan’s pen in hand is the book “An Unheralded Education –Learning By Doing in Henry Ford’s Greenfield Village Schools” this year’s Henry Ford Heritage Association’s annual book award recipient. The HFHA is delighted to reward Joan’s efforts to preserve and share this important part of Henry Ford history with the HFHA 2014 Book Award.

The Henry Ford Heritage Association (HFHA) is a group dedicated to fostering and interest in the life and accomplishments of Henry Ford and to interpret the landmarks associated with his life and family. We seek to do this in a balanced manor that reflects the truth and respects all associated with the Henry Ford story. HFHA has over 700 members worldwide. Each year we produce three newsletters and organize two trips to local areas of interest associated with Henry Ford’s history.

We are also very proud of our newly revamped website. Our website has been a point of reference to students around the country who have selected Henry Ford as a subject for their studies and members of our speaker’s bureau have been interviewed by these students as part of their report preparations. We have even been sought out by BBC Radio for a piece they did earlier this year on the 100th anniversary of the moving assembly line.

Next year the Henry Ford Heritage Association is celebrating its 25th Anniversary. Along with our partners; The Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, the Henry Ford Estate, the Early Ford V8 Foundation and Museum, The Benson Ford Research Center, The Ford Avenue Piquette Plant, the Model A Foundation and Museum, and the Edison and Ford Winter Estates, we are looking forward to continue bringing the highest quality current and historical news and stories in the Legend to our members.

FOR MEDIA INQUIRES ONLY: Contact the Henry Ford Heritage Association at [hfha@hfha.org](mailto:hffa@hfha.org) or at 888-687-4342.

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