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Henry Ford Heritage Association Announces Annual Awards

Dearborn, Michigan, July 30, 2015

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 Henry Ford Estate. HFHA, while celebrating its 25th Anniversary, announced its 2015 award recipients in four categories, each recognizes the contribution to continuing and adding to the history of the tinker turned titan, Henry Ford.

The 2015 awards are as follows:

Individual Friend of Ford Award: Rick Lindner of Columbus, Ohio.

As a youngster, Rick became more and more interested in Henry Ford's life, company, and products. Rick knew he wanted a Model T, but could not settle on what year. It was Walt Disney that decided for him, when they came out with the 1961 movie, "The Absent-Minded Professor". In it, Fred MacMurray invents, by accident, Flubber. He puts it in his 1915 Ford touring car, and it flies!!!



Rick could not afford a Model T at the time, but a few years later bought his first Ford — a 1931 Model A Tudor Sedan. Rick was only 15, so the owner had to drive it home for him. He spent every study hall in High School reading Ford repair manuals for the "T" and "A". In the Navy, while all the other guys were getting their girlfriend's name tattooed, Rick drew the "Ford" logo on a piece of paper, and had that put on while in Hong Kong.

Rick has been in National Model A and Model T Ford clubs since 1966; he has been a member of the Early Ford V-8 Club for many years; was a member of the Retractable Ford Club and the

Fabulous Fifties Ford Club; and he started the 1949 - 1959 Ford Club in Columbus, Ohio, and also the Lambda Car Club. He was President of both of those for many years.

Rick has been President of the local Model A Ford Club — Scioto (Sigh-O-Tow) — in Columbus five times, the first time when he was 19 years old; President for three years of the local Model T Club, The Tickin T's of Central Ohio; and belonged to the local Ohio Ford V-8 Club.

Service Award: Dolores Blaszcak of Dearborn Heights, MI

Dolores was born in Hamtramck and graduated from Hamtramck High School. She has four children and four grandchildren. Dolores has had a long history of volunteering in the community. She was an usher for Orchestra Hall for 16 years, a guide at the Detroit Historical Museum for 20 years, a wedding coordinator at her church, Devine Child, for 18 years and worked as a tour guide for Detroit Upbeat.



Dolores was a volunteer docent for more that 25 years here at the Henry Ford Estate starting in 1984. She joined HFHA in 1991 and has been on the Newsletter Distribution Committee for 18 years. We would like to thank Dolores for her years of dedication to the Henry Ford Heritage Association

Organization Friend of Ford Award: Edison and Ford Winter Estates

Chris Pendleton accepted the award for the Edison & Ford Winter Estates. She has been President/CEO of the Winter Estates since 2001 and is joined by Chief Curator Mike Cosden and Assistant Curator Brent Newman. As a part of their work at Edison Ford, this team has privatized and restored both properties winning top awards from both the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Today, the Henry and Clara Ford Winter Estate attracts 250,000 visitors annually and presents countless programs and activities to promote the Ford Legacy, as well as the other sites which are part of the historical Henry Ford Association. Edison Ford feels strongly that it is through the combined and coordinated work of all of the Ford sites that the history of this important family and their work can be best interpreted and kept alive.



Today, visitors to the Edison & Ford Winter Estates in Fort Myers will enjoy more than 20 acres of historical buildings, historic gardens, the Edison Botanic Research Lab and the Edison Ford Museum. Fully restored historic structures include the Edison Main House, Guest House, and Caretaker's House and the Ford House. The historic landscape reflects the year 1929 throughout the property, including the award winning Moonlight Garden. The Edison Ford Museum has hundreds of inventions, artifacts and special exhibits.

In addition to providing the opportunity to explore the winter retreats of Thomas Edison and Henry Ford, the site offers opportunities for the public to enjoy its park like environment for special events, weddings, corporate functions and meetings, exhibits and ongoing education

programming. Throughout the year, this National Register Historic Site, Florida Historic Landmark and Winner of the National Trust for Historic Preservation Restoration Award offers visitors of all ages a chance to step back into “old Florida” and the opportunity to learn more about the world through unique historical, scientific and cultural experiences. In 2014, the Edison Botanic Research Laboratory was designated as a National Historic Chemical Landmark by the American Chemical Society. For more information on the Edison and Ford Winter Estates go to www.edisonfordwinterstates.org

Book Award: *History is Bunk* by Dr. Jessie Swigger of Western Carolina University.

Dr. Swigger is an Associate Professor at Western Carolina University in the History Department where she also serves as the Director of the Public History Program. She earned her MA and PhD in American Studies from the University of Texas at Austin. At WCU, Dr. Swigger teaches courses in urban history, historic preservation, museum studies, and collective memory. In addition to presenting at numerous regional and national conferences, her work has appeared in *The 1980s: A Critical and Transitional Decade*. In 2013, she received the North Carolina Museums Council Award of Special Recognition. Her book, *"History is Bunk": Assembling the Past at Henry Ford's Greenfield Village*, was published by the University of Massachusetts Press in 2014.



The Henry Ford Heritage Association (HFHA) is a group dedicated to fostering an 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 on the 100th anniversary of the moving assembly line.

This year the Henry Ford Heritage Association celebrates its 25th Anniversary. Along with our partners: The Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, the Henry Ford Estate, the Early Ford V-8 Foundation and Museum, The Benson Ford Research Center, The Ford Piquette Avenue 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 or at 888-687-4342.

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