

GM Volunteers Raise Funds For Veterans

by Jim Stickford

While things are getting better for the auto industry, there are still people going through hard times.

And Henry Boulder, a 47-year GM employee who currently works as a shipping and handling attendant at the Pontiac Powertrain facility, would like to do something about it.

Boulder is also chair of UAW Local 653's veterans' committee. He himself is a Vietnam veteran.

"We put on a fundraiser on Nov. 8 to raise money for needy veterans and their families," Boulder said. "We placed volunteers outside the entrances of the Pontiac Powertrain to collect donations from people entering the facility."

They were there from about 5 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., Boulder said.

"This is the first time the veterans' committee has done anything like this on this scale," Boulder said. "Committee members Gary Philips, Lisa Mouser and myself came up with the idea after brainstorming on what we could do to help. This is what we came up with."

"We saw that Veterans Day and

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2014 Cadillac CTS

Dodge Reunites 'Scat Pack'

As the saying goes, the past is prologue.

So, in honor of the 45th anniversary of the "Scat Pack Club" that played a prominent role in Dodge's high-performance heritage, Dodge and Mopar introduced a new Scat Package.

Scat Packages are performance stage kits for the 2014 Dodge Challenger, 2014 Dodge Charger and 2014 Dodge Dart, introduced last week at the 2013 Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA) show in Las Vegas.

In 1968, Dodge united the brand's performance vehicle enthusiasts through the creation of the Scat Pack Club, said Chrysler spokesman Pat Caporali. The

Scat Pack Club quickly transformed and expanded from an enthusiast club into an overarching Dodge performance philosophy.

This shared philosophy, Caporali said, ultimately evolved into the desire for even more performance. So Dodge and Mopar brands partnered to respond to this need by delivering factory-engineered performance stage kits that would ultimately become known as "Scat Packages."

"The Scat Pack performance philosophy has always been the core of Dodge DNA," said Tim Kuniskis, president and CEO, Dodge Brand. "Bringing back factory

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2014 Cadillac CTS Crowned Motor Trend Car of the Year

The 2014 Cadillac CTS sedan has been named *Motor Trend* magazine's Car of the Year for 2014.

"The all-new 2014 Cadillac CTS prevailed over one of the most competitive fields in recent memory because it best met our award's key criteria," said *Motor Trend* editor-in-chief Ed Loh.

"Our judges were particularly impressed by the CTS's responsive powertrains and masterful balance of smooth ride and sporty handling."

Cadillac spokesman David Caldwell said, "We are absolutely excited to win this award. It's just sensational, and it's quite a difficult award to win. The selection process is a grueling one in which every significant new car in the world is tested 'in battle.'"

"We knew we had a compelling design and it's great news and validation of the work done by the people in Lansing and in Warren."

Caldwell said the Cadillac designers took lessons they learned from around the world and applied them to the CTS. It won the same award in 2008, but Cadillac didn't rest on its laurels.

"The 2014 CTS is upgraded in every way," Caldwell said. "I am talking about performance, luxu-

ry, technology and efficiency. Basically, it's a whole new car where we wiped the slate clean."

And, the ATS is competing with some legendary European vehicles, such as the BMW 5 Series and the Mercedes E Class. This is possible, said Caldwell, because Cadillac upgraded the ATS, making it Cadillac's point of entry for new buyers. Now, he said, the CTS has moved up in class and competes with the best in the business.

"The CTS is the first American car to really compete on that level," Caldwell said. "This award is a nice landmark on the CTS's journey to becoming a world-class automobile."

Caldwell said *Motor Trend's* Car of the Year program is open to any all-new or substantially upgraded 2014 automobile. Rather than being compared against one another, contending vehicles are first put through *Motor Trend's* full battery of performance tests to measure acceleration, braking, and limit handling.

All contenders are then evaluated on three separate courses at a professional automotive test center before finalists are select-

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Aftermarket Custom Builders Turn Ford's Transit Connects into Some Wild Rides

Not everyone wants to drive a muscle car or a crossover or a minivan, but that doesn't mean there aren't vehicles out there for people who want to personalize their rides.

The industry's top aftermarket custom builders transformed four Ford Transit Connect wagons and six vans, expressing their creativity through elaborate interior reconstructions, blazing graphics and eye-catching exteriors, Ford spokesman William Mattiace said.

This reimaging of Transit

Connect, he said, showcases the lineup's versatility and creative potential – especially for commercial use.

"When asked why Ford brought these vehicles to the SEMA show, the explanation is pretty simple," Mattiace said. "SEMA is the largest collection of small businesses in the world. We see a lot of what we call impassioned customers who don't want to jump on the crossover express or drive a minivan."

By bringing vehicles that have been personalized by some of

the best customizing shops in the country, Ford is able to show these business owners just what can be done.

"We're showing a new class of vehicle that can be modified in flexible and versatile ways," Mattiace said. "Our SEMA-inspired modifications show that we've come to play. Of course, we've brought other vehicles like Mustangs and such, but we thought it would be fun to do something different and show what can be done with the Transit Connect."

Ford Transit Connect, named



Decked-out 2014 Ford Transit Connect

2014 International Van of the Year, has been a smart choice for small business owners since it launched in North America in 2009, Mattiace said.

The compact van earned the 2010 North American Truck of

the Year title, adding to its global reputation for durability and toughness that dates back to its launch in Europe in 2003.

As Ford launches the newest

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Mopar CEO Pietro Gorlier and Jeep Wrangler's SEMA award

Mopar Accessories Keep Jeep Wrangler a 'Hot' SUV

The Jeep Wrangler was recognized as the "Hottest 4x4-SUV" for a fourth consecutive year at the 2013 Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA) trade show in Las Vegas last week.

The SEMA Award recognizes vehicle models that specialty equipment manufacturers believe are the best platforms for accessorization and that showcase the year's coolest products, said Chrysler spokesman Bryan Zvibleman.

SEMA President and CEO Chris Kersting presented the award to Pietro Gorlier, president and CEO of Mopar, Chrysler's service, parts and customer-care brand, at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

"Consumers are increasingly interested in customizing vehicles, so having an accessory-friendly platform is important,"

said Kersting. "The Jeep Wrangler has consistently ranked Number One as the Hottest 4x4-SUV since the inception of the SEMA Award, a clear reflection of its versatility."

"It's amazing to have the Jeep Wrangler recognized for a fourth straight year by SEMA with this award," Gorlier said. "The Wrangler is our most accessorized vehicle and to see it consistently winning accolades is a demonstration of the quality of the vehicle and the work that Mopar has put in to develop accessories and quality Jeep Performance Parts."

"Enthusiasts will be happy to know we have just added new offerings to our more than 300 performance parts and accessories already available for this vehicle

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