

# MODEL A FORD HALL OF FAME



Model A Museum  
Gilmore Car Museum Campus  
Hickory Corners, Michigan



# Welcome to the Model A Ford Hall of Fame



The Hall of Fame exists to recognize the people who developed, produced, sold and maintained the Model A Ford vehicles. It also recognizes the many people who developed supporting and derivative tools, accessories and machinery; authored and published articles, magazines and books; and organized and led national organizations devoted to the Model A Ford.

The Hall of Fame is located inside the Model A Ford Museum. It is an evolving element within the museum and is expected to grow in size and importance with each new induction ceremony.

# 43<sup>rd</sup> INDUCTEE



## James Couzens

Inducted September 20, 2025

# James Couzens

## Nominating Narrative

In the early days of the automobile industry many hundreds of companies and individuals attempted to enter the automobile business. However, very few were successful -- often because they were under-financed and had poor business management practices. The Ford Motor company was one survivor that was successful from almost the very beginning, due almost entirely to the leadership, policies and discipline that James Couzens contributed to the Company.

James Couzens was born in Chatham, Ontario on August 26, 1872. He moved to the United States at age 18 and worked in the railroad and coal industries. He later became an American businessman, politician and philanthropist. He served as mayor of Detroit and a U.S. Senator from Michigan. Prior to entering politics, he served as Vice president and General Manager of the Ford Motor Company.

Couzens strongly believed in Henry Ford and the new Ford Motor Company. So much so that he borrowed all the money he could, emptied his savings account and purchased stock in the Ford Motor Company. He was one of the 12 original investors in the Company. He became Secretary of the Company and a guiding force for its business practices and production decisions. It has been said that, when the Ford Motor Company was incorporated, no one knew more about cars than did Henry Ford and that no one knew less about cars than did James Couzens. This made for an ideal partnership and working arrangement. Henry Ford focused on design, engineering and production. James Couzens headed up finance, accounting, purchasing, sales, advertising and dealerships -- the entire business side of the Company.

# James Couzens

## Nominating Narrative (cont.)

To ensure the financial stability of the new Ford Motor Company, Couzens introduced a policy, radical at the time, of requiring a 50% deposit with an order for a Ford car, with the balance payable on delivery. He later announced that Ford would no longer sell cars to the public but, instead, only through authorized Ford dealers -- a practice the entire automobile industry soon followed. Couzens traveled widely interviewing and qualifying potential Ford dealers. Each potential dealer understood that if they did not provide top-notch service, they would lose their franchise. He also helped institute the "Ford \$5 day" policy for employee compensation and helped in the development and perfection of the assembly line to reduce times and assembly costs.

Throughout his career at Ford, Couzens supported Henry Ford's ideas regarding the importance of producing a low-priced car that more people could afford. After leaving Ford in 1915, Couzens remained a Ford Motor Company director and president of the Highland Park State Bank. He went on to become the mayor of Detroit (1919-1922), served two terms in the U.S. Senate (1922-1936) and was being considered as a potential Presidential candidate when he suffered a fatal heart attack at the age of 64. Henry Ford was the lead pall bearer at his funeral. Couzens was inducted into the Automobile Hall of Fame in 2012.

# James Couzens

## Nominating Narrative (cont.)

While James J. Couzens significant career at Ford preceded the introduction of the Model A, without his strong leadership, insightful policies and discipline the Ford Motor Company would have most likely failed long before its ability to produce the Model A Ford.

# 44<sup>th</sup> INDUCTEE



## Tim Kelly

Inducted September 20, 2025

# Tim Kelly

## Nominating Narrative

J. Timothy Kelly was born in Colorado Springs, Colorado, in 1955 and graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology in the mid-1970s. He began his career at Price Waterhouse Coopers in Denver, Colorado in 1982 and, after spending 29 years as a Tax Consultant in its New York City office, retired as a partner in 2016. He was an avid collector of antique cars, and a leading advocate and donor during the creation of the Model A Ford Museum.

Tim was a prolific collector of early Ford automobiles and a member of numerous antique car clubs. He had a passion for recreating history and enjoyed driving his cars locally and in car tours in the United States and abroad.

The existence of the Model A Ford Museum and its early growth is due in large measure to the efforts of Tim Kelly. In September 2011, a crucial time in the raising of funds to build the museum, Tim offered to donate \$50,000 if five other people/groups committed to donating that amount. In short order, other people/groups agreed, and the fundraising goal was met and the museum building construction began. Subsequently, when the museum building was finished, Tim donated several historic vehicles, including a Service Car “Tow Truck” and a tandem axle flatbed AA, to help populate the exhibits. He also donated several rare original “new old stock” components such as a new factory engine still in the crate, which can be seen at the museum today.

# Tim Kelly

## Nominating Narrative (cont.)

He developed a collection of one-of-a-kind Model A Ford Town Cars, a unique gathering of the most elegant of cars produced by the Ford Motor Company in the Model A era. In 2017, at his own initiative and expense, he hired a vehicle transporter to ship the five Town Cars from Connecticut to Michigan for the annual Model A Day at the Model A Museum. On another occasion, he arranged to bring his 1906 Model K Ford, and a second Model K, to the Model A Day celebration, a very rare joint appearance of two very rare cars.

Sadly, at age 63 Timothy Kelly passed away on November 5, 2018, after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

# 45<sup>th</sup> INDUCTEE



## Steve Hamilton

Inducted September 20, 2025

# Steve Hamilton

## Nominating Narrative

Steve Hamilton was born in 1943 in Vancouver, British Columbia. His family moved to the United States when Steve was 6 years old. Steve was always interested in cars and finally bought his first Model A Ford in 1967 when he was 24 years old. That first Model A was a 1931 coupe “basket case”. After restoring it, he said he would never again buy a car in pieces...but, of course he did. Later he bought an early 1928 Sport Coupe and also a 1940 Ford convertible.

Steve and his wife, Judy, met in high school and were married in 1963. They joined MAFCA in 1968 and have been longtime members of the Gallopin’ Gerties Model A Ford club in Tacoma, Washington and the Evergreen Chapter in Seattle. Over the years Steve and Judy attended many National and Regional meets, and National Banquets. Steve restored several award-winning Model A’s, culminating in their A400 Convertible Sedan.

Steve was a key member of MAFCA for many years, serving two terms on the MAFCA Board of Directors. He was the Technical Director in 1983 when communication was done by mail. He served as Membership Chairman and Vice President before become President of MAFCA in 1985. His wife Judy also became MAFCA President in 1998.

During his time on the board of MAFCA, the Model A Ford Foundation (MAFFI) was formed with the goal of collecting donated Model A items to be placed into a museum. Steve was the 2nd President of MAFFI and was a key element in the development of the organization which went on to build the Model A Ford Museum in Hickory Corners, Michigan.

# Steve Hamilton

## Nominating Narrative (cont.)

Steve was the Chief Judge for the 1984 MAFCA National Meet held at Portland, Oregon. He served on the Steering Committee for three national meets in 1972 (Seattle), 1984 (Portland) and 1994 (Tacoma). He was awarded MAFCA Lifetime Membership in 1996.

In addition, he is a member of MARC, the Early Ford V-8 Club, and has earned the designation as a Club Auto Founder of LeMay, America's Car Museum in Tacoma, Washington. The Hamilton's still have their first Model A, the Sport Coupe, and the A400 Convertible Sedan, and three Woody Wagons.

# 46th INDUCTEE



## Roger Kauffman

Inducted September 20, 2025

# Roger Kauffman

## Nominating Narrative

Roger was born in 1953 in Dayton, Ohio, and lived his entire life on a farm nearby in Brookville. At sixteen, while working in a local grocery store, Roger had his encounter with a Model A when his boss told him to make a few deliveries with the “company car” – a 1929 Special Coupe. Once Roger was able to start it, he made the deliveries and was hooked forever, this beginning a lifelong journey through the wonderful world of Model Aing. It was also at that store where Roger met, dated, and married his sweetheart, Dee Dee, whom he referred to many times during his reports to the MARC audience at the national meets. Many remember Roger’s famous line: “...Dee Dee couldn’t be here today; she’s home cutting the grass”. Roger’s humor was widely known in the Model A community and his stories were a highlight of his reports.

Before Roger’s untimely passing in 2011 (at 58 years), he managed to restore several Model As in his younger years, and had purchased and sold over 300 cars, mostly Model A Fords, over his short lifetime. Roger was a national Model A Restorers Club figure and achieved what most of never will. Roger’s accomplishments are many and varied and include the following at the local level:

- Dayton Buckeye Region Member of the Year Award winner multiple times
- Chairman of the 1997 MARC National Meet in Dayton
- Created, Directed, and Produced the silent film “The Buckeye Bank Robbery” featuring members of the region and their cars. The movie premiered at the 2005 MARC National Meet in Indianapolis
- Founded the Ladies Driving School in his garage using rudimentary parts and a 4-week curriculum, and awarding each “student” a patch proving they could and did drive a Model A on the road
- Implemented (and auctioneered) an annual club auction using donated goods and awarding a lucky member the proceeds at the August meeting.

# Roger Kauffman

## Nominating Narrative (cont.)

At the national level, Roger was very well known and was the proud recipient of many prestigious awards:

- Technical Chairman of the MARC Model A News for 28 years (1983-2011)
- Kenneth G. Brady Award (1989)
- George DeAngelis Award (1993)
- National MARC Lifetime Member (2001)
- Honorable Mention George DeAngelis Award (2008)
- Member Judging Standards Committee (1990-1996)