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TIME Dealer of the Year
Lou Vitantonio, Jr.
Greater Cleveland Automobile Dealers' Association

TIME AND ALLY FINANCIAL HONOR BROADVIEW HEIGHTS DEALER

Ken Ganley Wins National Recognition for Community Service and Industry Accomplishments

(New York, NY, October 14, 2026) – The nomination of Ken Ganley, CEO of Ken Ganley Auto Group in Broadview Heights, Ohio, for the 2027 TIME Dealer of the Year award was announced today by TIME.

Ganley 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. Ganley was chosen to represent the Greater Cleveland Automobile Dealers' 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 grateful to represent our employees, customers, family and automotive community," Ganley said. "The success of Ken Ganley Auto Group has always been driven by talented people who believe in taking care of customers and supporting one another."

Ganley earned an associate degree in automotive marketing from Northwood University in Midland, Michigan, in 1994. He began his automotive career as a salesperson at Ganley Nissan in 1990 before moving into finance and sales management positions at Ganley Honda.

Ganley learned the automotive business from his father, Tom Ganley, who was a dealer from 1968 until his death in 2016. As Ganley developed within the company, his father gave him opportunities to purchase minority ownership interests in dealerships and assume greater leadership responsibilities.

“My father taught me the business, but just as importantly, he gave me the opportunity to take risks, make decisions and grow as a dealer,” Ganley said. “His example continues to influence the way I lead our company and prepare the next generation.”

In December 1995, Ganley became the owner of Ganley Toyota and Mercedes-Benz of Akron. He has owned multiple new-car dealerships since 1997 and became CEO and owner of Ken Ganley Companies in 2022.

Today, Ken Ganley Auto Group represents an extensive portfolio of domestic, import and luxury automotive brands, including Toyota, Ford, Lincoln, Chevrolet, Honda, Nissan, Subaru, Volkswagen, Kia, BMW, Buick, GMC, Cadillac, Mazda, Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram, Hyundai, Genesis, Mercedes-Benz, Lexus, Audi, Porsche, Bentley, Rolls-Royce, Aston Martin and Maserati.

Ganley credits the organization’s growth to a willingness to accept financial risk, remain flexible during changing economic cycles and surround himself with exceptional employees.

“Entrepreneurship requires risk, particularly in a business as cyclical as automotive retail,” Ganley said. “Learning how to lead through difficult periods makes you a better dealer and businessperson. The key is to remain resilient and continue investing in the people who drive the organization forward.”

Ken Ganley Auto Group employs 2,969 people. More than 670 employees have been with the organization for at least six years, including 330 who have remained for more than a decade and 97 with more than 20 years of service.

“The greatest strength of our company is our people,” Ganley said. “When you surround yourself with great team members, give them opportunities to grow and trust them to take care of customers, the entire organization becomes stronger.”

Ganley considers employee development one of the most rewarding elements of his career. He takes particular pride in seeing team members who began in entry-level positions advance into dealership leadership.

“There is an incredible sense of satisfaction in watching someone who started with us at 16 years old build a meaningful career, become a general manager and support a family of their own,” Ganley said. “Their growth and development are achievements I take tremendous pride in.”

The company provides professional development and technical training to help service technicians expand their skills and pursue long-term careers in automotive retail. It is also building a gym at its corporate office that employees will be able to use at their convenience.

Ganley's three sons are now gaining experience within the family business. His oldest son, Kenny, is the general sales manager at Ken Ganley Toyota Akron. His son Tyler serves as a finance manager at Ken Ganley Kia Medina, while his youngest son, Brady, sells vehicles during summer breaks from college.

"Watching my sons grow within the business is incredibly rewarding," Ganley said. "I want them to learn every aspect of dealership operations, build trust with employees and understand that leadership is earned through consistency, hard work and service."

Kenny's move to the Toyota Akron dealership from another store within the organization has generated measurable improvements in performance and employee morale. Ganley credits his daily engagement across departments with helping strengthen communication and teamwork.

"Leadership requires visibility," Ganley said. "Kenny is in every department, speaking with employees and learning how the business works from their perspective. That kind of engagement makes a meaningful difference in both morale and performance."

The dealership also completed a \$1 million interior renovation that added a new customer lounge, coffee and snack bar, updated sales and management offices, new furniture and carpeting, redesigned service-advisor stations and a fireplace.

Following the renovation, the dealership reported improved service traffic and customer-retention results, along with an increase of nearly 40 percent in new- and used-vehicle sales.

"The building's exterior had always presented well, but the interior needed to better reflect the experience we wanted to provide," Ganley said. "Customers have responded positively, and the renovation has helped improve retention, service activity and sales."

Ken Ganley Auto Group dealerships have received numerous manufacturer and industry honors, including the Kia President's Award, Toyota President's Award and Elite of Lexus recognition. The organization was also ranked second among privately owned dealership groups nationwide for online reputation.

Ken Ganley Honda was named a 2024 Top Workplace by The Plain Dealer, and Toyota of Kent was recognized among Automotive News' Best Dealerships to Work For in 2026.

Dealerships throughout the group have also received state Dealer of the Year and Customer Satisfaction awards representing brands including Toyota, BMW, Chevrolet, Honda, Subaru, Ford, Hyundai, Lexus, Volkswagen and Kia.

“Recognition is meaningful because it reflects the effort our teams put into serving customers every day,” Ganley said. “Awards belong to the employees who create the experience and build the reputation behind each dealership.”

Ganley has been a member of NADA since 1995. He served the Greater Cleveland Automobile Dealers’ Association as treasurer, vice chairman and chairman between 2013 and 2016.

His commitment to community service is reflected across the group’s dealerships, which support organizations focused on children and families, hunger relief, healthcare, education, animal welfare, veterans, first responders and other local needs.

For 25 years, the Ken Ganley Auto Group Adopt-A-Family initiative has provided holiday assistance to families referred by organizations including Akron Children’s Hospital Palliative Care, Cleveland Clinic Children’s Hospital, Boys & Girls Clubs and local job and family services agencies.

Employees shop for, wrap and deliver gifts to participating families, who also receive grocery gift cards for holiday meals.

“Adopt-A-Family has become one of our most meaningful traditions because our employees are personally involved in every step,” Ganley said. “They are not only providing gifts but also creating moments of dignity, comfort and joy for families during the holidays.”

The company’s Kia dealerships support the annual Cleveland St. Jude Walk/Run through a multiyear commitment. Ken Ganley Kia Alliance has served as a presenting sponsor, with employees raising funds and participating in the walk.

Employees have also volunteered with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, where one service shift helped prepare food benefiting more than 2,600 families.

“Hunger affects families in every community, often in ways that are not immediately visible,” Ganley said. “Our partnership with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank gives employees an opportunity to work together and make a direct, measurable difference.”

Through the Roc Solid Foundation, Ken Ganley employees constructed two playsets for children fighting pediatric cancer, including one in North Royalton and another in Medina.

The organization also supports the Friendship Circle, which connects children with special needs and teenage volunteers, as well as Ronald McDonald House, Make-A-Wish, A Special Wish, the Boys & Girls Clubs and other organizations serving children and families.

Animal welfare is another focus of the group's community engagement. Its dealerships sponsor dog and cat adoption cages through the Cleveland Animal Protective League, including cages dedicated in memory of Tom Ganley and Charlie, Ken and Nicole Ganley's goldendoodle.

The company supports at least two free pet-adoption weekends annually, while employees have made receiving blankets for adopted puppies. Its support of the Cleveland APL's Fur Ball helps provide medical treatment, surgery and rehabilitation for sick, injured and abused animals.

"Community support should reflect the wide range of needs affecting our neighbors," Ganley said. "Whether we are helping a family, supporting a child undergoing treatment or finding a home for an animal, our goal is to use our resources and reach to make a positive difference."

Additional organizations supported by the group include Akron Children's Hospital, the American Heart Association, the Alzheimer's Association, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Susan G. Komen, the Travis Mills Foundation, Seeds of Literacy, Adoption Network Cleveland and local police, fire and K-9 programs.

"Our dealerships are part of the communities they serve," Ganley said. "That relationship comes with a responsibility to support the organizations working every day to make those communities stronger."

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."

Ganley was nominated for the TIME Dealer of the Year award by Lou Vitantonio, Jr., president of the Greater Cleveland Automobile Dealers' Association. He and his wife, Nicole, have three sons: Kenny, Tyler and Brady.

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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.