



## Press Release

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### **Jack Armstrong Receives NAAA's 2016 Bernie Hart Award**



LAS VEGAS, Nev. (November 16, 2016) — Jack Armstrong, a 27-year veteran of the auction industry, has received the National Auto Auction Association Bernie Hart Memorial Auctioneer Award for 2016. The association represents more than 300 auto auction members in North America.

Armstrong was presented with the award during the 68th NAAA/NRC Convention being held at the Red Rock Casino Resort and Spa in Las Vegas. Named in honor of Bernie Hart, who served as NAAA's executive director for more than 30 years before retiring in 1988, the annual award recognizes the industry's most visible auctioneers.

What started out as a part-time job as a driver at Rea Brothers Mid-South Auto Auction in Jackson, Miss., has grown into a 27-year career for Armstrong. A 1990 graduate of the Mendenhall School of

Auctioneering, Armstrong attended Hinds Community College in Raymond, Miss., and on auction day would be in the lanes at Mid-South.

Today, Armstrong works auctions in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana, including independent and corporately owned sales. He works each day of the week and puts about 1,000 miles a week on his 2014 Ford Expedition, which he says he purchased used.

"I learned to love the auction business — was fascinated by the process," Armstrong said. "As time went on, I worked as a ringman and would help out with whatever was necessary. That's when I left school and attended Mendenhall."

He graduated from Mendenhall with awards such as "Most Likely to Succeed" and "Best All around Student." His first job following graduation was at Rea Brothers, and then he expanded to auctions in Tupelo, Mississippi, and later, Memphis, Tennessee."

Armstrong has been actively involved in community activities and charities, and served as sheriff's deputy with two county departments — Leake County Sheriff's Department (1990-1993) and Jones County Sheriff's Department (2009-present). Most of the years as deputy were on a volunteer basis, without compensation

Armstrong was wounded in the line of duty in 1993. When a fellow Jones County deputy, who was also his partner, was fatally injured in July 2012, he helped organize several benefit auctions, both private and public, to help the family financially and to show much-needed support from the citizens of Jones County and surrounding areas.

When the state legislature passed a law requiring all auctioneers to be licensed in 1995, Mississippi Governor Kirk Fordice appointed Armstrong to the Mississippi Auctioneer Commission representing the 4th Congressional District, a position he still holds today.

When he created a Foundation for Blair E. Boston Children's Cancer Hospital in Jackson, Miss., Kent Hull, former center for the NFL's Buffalo Bills, asked Armstrong to be his auctioneer for all charity events.

During this time, Hull introduced Armstrong to Buffalo Bills quarterback Jim Kelly and his wife Jilly. The couple had a son, Hunter, who was diagnosed with Krabbe Disease and passed away in August 2005.

"I have been closely involved with Jim's foundation, Hunter's Hope, as the auctioneer for the last 15 years. It has raised millions of dollars for Krabbe Disease research, and to also raise awareness of the need for universal newborn screening for this and other genetic disorders."

Armstrong, like just about everyone else in the auction industry, said the introduction of computers and technology has been the biggest change in the past three decades.

"I believe it has been for the better," Armstrong said. "Buyers and sellers attending the auction online better the chances vehicles will get better exposure for sellers and greater selection for buyers."

As an auctioneer veteran, he has some simple advice for young auctioneers.

"Take advantage of every opportunity," he said. "Work the ring, sell reruns, don't turn down any experience. The best education comes from doing, and there is nothing like on-the-job training in this business."

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