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Joseph Mast Receives NAAA Auctioneer of the Year Award *National Auto Auction Association honors auctioneer from GEICO's TV commercial*



Joseph Mast

INDIANAPOLIS—Joseph Mast has received the National Auto Auction Association's Bernie Hart Memorial Auctioneer Award for 2019. The honor was presented at the organization's 71st annual convention this month.

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 person.

Mast gained recognition as the winner of the prestigious International Auctioneer Championship in 2011, which then led to his appearance in a humorous GEICO Insurance television commercial as a grocery store clerk who auctions a shopper's items at the checkout. The ad ran for two years as part of a national campaign, including during the NFL Playoffs and other high profile broadcasts, and put a public spotlight on the auctioneering profession.

Growing up as the seventh generation of a dairy farm family in the Amish country of rural Holmes County, Ohio, Mast planned to work with his father. But when the business was sold, the 18-year-old was at a loss for a career. An auction flyer his Dad brought home, along with his father's encouragement, peaked his interest in the profession. So after attending Goshen College, Mast enrolled in the Missouri Auction School.

Although his early days as an auctioneer focused on estate sales, cattle and horses, Mast had the opportunity to work at Michigan's Flint Auto Auction, and soon found himself conducting six auto auctions weekly. Chad Bailey at Akron Auto Auction recognized the young man's talent. Eventually, Mast would be named Akron's lead auctioneer and managing the auction team.

At 24 Mast got his real estate license and joined Real Estate Showcase Company in 2004, purchasing it four years later. Today his Ohio-based RES company, co-owned with fellow auctioneer Andy White, specializing in real estate and equipment auctions.

In 2008 Mast also became the youngest member of Barrett-Jackson's elite auction team selling collectible cars. Additionally, he does bid-calling for Fasig-Tipton Thoroughbred Racehorse Auctions, CAT Auction Services: Heavy Equipment Auctions, Harrisburg Standard bred Sales: Horse Auctions, and Williams & Williams Real Estate Auctions.

During his 18-year career, Mast has been honored as the 2005 Ohio Auctioneer Champion and the 2014 World Auto Auctioneer Reserve Champion. He has served on the National Auctioneers Association Board of Directors and received the highest designation from the Certified Auctioneers Institute. He has also helped raise over \$100 million in benefit auctions for charities.

Mast, who married his high-school sweetheart Marie, and their three children, Emma, Mattie and Micah, live on their farm in Millersburg, Ohio. He's a pilot, a hunter and also enjoys cycling.

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