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Murray Kent Receives NAAA Auctioneer of the Year Award National Auto Auction Association honors long-time auctioneer



L to R: Murray Kent, Auctioneer of the Year and Warren Clauss, NAAA President

SCOTTSDALE, AZ.— Murray Kent has received the National Auto Auction Association (NAAA) Bernie Hart Memorial Auctioneer Award for 2018. Warren Clauss, outgoing president of the association, which represents more than 340 auto auction members in North America, presented the award at its 70th annual convention this month in Scottsdale, Arizona.

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.

Kent has been seen on the block at numerous auto auctions for five decades. He began calling bids as a teenager at livestock auctions around his western New York home, then following high school the young man traveled to Decatur, Illinois, where he attended The Superior School of Auctioneering and graduated in July 1976.

The next year, while continuing to work at livestock markets, household and farm auctions, Kent was introduced to the world of auto auctions at Expressway Auto Auction in Dansville, New York — and he met Marianne Crittenden, who would become his wife. He also worked at Waterloo Auto Auction in Waterloo, New York, and sold heavy equipment in his home state and neighboring Pennsylvania for the Dick Crittenden Auction Company.

After marriage and starting a family, Kent partnered with his father and brother, purchasing a livestock market in April 1984. Victor Kent & Sons, Inc., of Sherman, New York, sold cattle every Tuesday and Thursday, plus a monthly horse and tack auction. By 1987, Kent had three growing boys of his own to provide for, so when ADESA Buffalo opened in September 1992, he went to work there on Tuesdays while remaining a partner in the family business. On Wednesdays he auctioneered at Manheim Butler Auto Auction in Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania, but eventually went to work for another ADESA auction in Syracuse.

Today, Expressway and Waterloo (now Rochester-Syracuse) auto auctions as well as both ADESA auctions, still employ Kent's talent on the block, along with State Line Auto Auction in Waverly, New York.

Kent was named the "Auctioneer of the Year" for 2008 by the New York State Auctioneers Association, and in December 2017 he had the honor of auctioning the last Oldsmobile ever made, an Alero GLS, which sold for \$42,000 at State Line.

Although moving his family to Florida in 2002 because of his sons' equestrian competitions, Kent has kept his auctioneer jobs in New York and Pennsylvania, flying north on Mondays for the weekly round of his auction circuit then returning Friday nights to spend the weekend at home with Marianne, Levi, Marcus, and Nicholas.

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