



# SAE MID MICHIGAN

An SAE International Section



Harlow Curtice went from the classrooms of the Ferris Institute to the cover of Time Magazine as their Man of the Year in 1955.

## HARLOW H. CURTICE HOMETOWN MEMORIAL TROPHY



Ron Frakes, the 2016 winner, receives the "Harlow H. Curtice Hometown Memorial Award" from SAE-Mid Michigan Section Chairman, Bernard Santavy



1970 Buick GSX with Stage 1 455 cubic engine



The most powerful engine option was the 455 Stage 1

The Mid-Michigan Section of the SAE International will again present the Harlow H. Curtice Hometown Memorial Trophy at the **13th Annual Back to the Bricks®** celebration in Flint, Michigan on August 19, 2017. The award will be presented to either the Buick or Chevrolet that Harlow Curtice would most likely enjoy driving.

The winning car for the Harlow H. Curtice Hometown Memorial Trophy will be selected from the cars on display at **Back to the Bricks®** on Saturday, August 19th by a team of engineers representing the Mid-Michigan Section of SAE (an international professional society for engineers in the mobility industry).

The award will be presented to the winning car owner at the Saginaw Street Central Lot during the afternoon programs.

Harlow H. Curtice, a long time Flint resident and civic supporter, retired as General Motors 11th President on August 31, 1958.

Curtice (nicknamed "Red" for his shock of red hair), is generally remembered fondly — a real achievement for an executive in a field known for its extraordinarily competitive nature. Even in the controversial book "On a Clear Day You Can See General Motors," which chronicles John Z. DeLorean's time with GM, Curtice is described as, "warm, flamboyant, exciting," and as "a man whose mere presence would command attention and stop conversations when he walked into a room" (ref. <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/parentinfo/success/2002/tungsten/homepage.htm>)

Harlow Curtice began his General Motors Career at the AC Spark Plug Division in early 1915. He was named General Manager of AC in 1929. He became General Manager of Buick in 1934 and was named Executive Vice President of General Motors in September, 1949. It was in this position that he approved the 1953 Buick V-8 engine and the 1953 Chevrolet Corvette for production in Flint.

Curtice was elected President of GM on February 3, 1953. During his tenure as President, Curtice championed V-8 engines, including the Buick "Nail-head" and the Chevrolet "Small Block," automatic transmissions, power steering and brakes, GM's Fuel Injection, and air-conditioning.

The GM Motoramas and the Parade of Progress were signature marketing programs under Harlow Curtice's purview. He also presided over the dedication of the General Motors Technical Center in May, 1956 and GM's 50th Anniversary in September, 1958.

In keeping with the vision of Harlow Curtice, the vehicle selected for this Award will feature a combination of the classic design features of the production car with upgrades that enhance the vehicle as do concept cars produced by auto manufacturers.

To enter your car for Award selection please text a photo and contact information to (810) 265-8365. For more information, please contact Bernard Santavy (810) 635-7848 or email [saemidmichsec@cs.com](mailto:saemidmichsec@cs.com). Visit our website [www.midmichigansae.org](http://www.midmichigansae.org) and [www.sae.org](http://www.sae.org) to learn about SAE Int.