Dedication of
The Joe Hendrick Center for Automotive Technology
at
Central Piedmont Community College
May 22, 2007, 2:00 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions
Dr. Tony Zeiss, President, Central Piedmont Community College

Remarks
The Honorable Mike Easley, Governor, State of North Carolina
The Honorable Lee Myers, Mayor, Township of Matthews
Mr. Isaac Glenn, Central Piedmont Community College Automotive Student and Hendrick Award Recipient
Mr. Rick Hendrick, Chairman, Hendrick Automotive Group Chairman and CEO, Hendrick Motorsports

Platform Guests
Dr. Augustine Martinez
Dean, Levine Campus
Mr. Thomas Norman
President, Central Piedmont Community College Foundation
Mr. Ralph Pitts
Chairman, Central Piedmont Community College Board of Trustees

Dedication Ceremony
Dr. Zeiss and Mr. Hendrick

Closing
Dr. Zeiss
(Reception and Tours following)
Joseph “Papa Joe” Riddick Hendrick Jr.

1919 - 2004

J. R. “Papa Joe” Hendrick Jr., the beloved patriarch of Hendrick Motorsports and the Hendrick Automotive Group, exemplified the courage, humanity and fortitude of America’s Greatest Generation in World War II. Some 30 years later, Hendrick became a NASCAR legend as he worked alongside his son, J.R. “Rick” Hendrick III, who by then had launched one of the most successful automotive dealership and racing organizations in American history.

A flight engineer and tail gunner in the United States Air Force, Hendrick began his military service in early 1942, just days after America entered World War II. Stationed overseas in Sardinia, Italy, Hendrick and his crew were shot down three times in combat action. Each time, the resourceful Virginian returned to the skies, earning the prestigious Air Medal award for service in the 12th Air Force B-26 Marauder group.

Upon his return home, the Palmer Springs, Va., native married Mary Tucker on December 29, 1945, at Grace Episcopal Church. A devoted family man, Hendrick worked two full-time jobs, during the day as a tobacco farmer and at night as a second shift supervisor at Burlington Industries, all to support his young family. “He was the hardest working man I ever knew,” son Rick told the Charlotte Observer in 2004. “And he was my best friend.”

A lifelong racing enthusiast and participant, the elder Hendrick first honed his mechanical skills on military aircraft and farm equipment, then by helping NASCAR Modified legend Ray Hendrick (no relation) build race cars. Eventually, Hendrick taught his love of cars to his two sons, Rick and John. Retiring from farming in 1981, Papa Joe Hendrick moved to Charlotte, serving as Rick Hendrick’s mentor and adviser from the group’s flagship City Chevrolet dealership. Aided by Papa Joe’s input and charisma, the Hendrick men created one of America’s most renowned dealership networks and one of the most successful NASCAR teams in racing history.

When Hendrick Motorsports added a second NASCAR Cup team in 1986, Papa Joe served as team owner of the storied No. 25 Folgers Chevrolet that driver Tim Richmond piloted to seven wins and eight poles that first season. After further stints as car owner for Kenny Schroader, 1973 NASCAR Cup champion Benny Parsons and other notable drivers, the elder Hendrick eventually ended his career partnering with his only grandson, J.R. “Ricky” Hendrick, IV, as co-owner of the No. 25 car and the company’s NASCAR Busch Series No. 5 entry.

On June 1, 2004, North Carolina Governor Mike Easley awarded Papa Joe Hendrick and his wife, Mary, the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the highest honor that can be bestowed on a North Carolina citizen. Papa Joe Hendrick served his country, family and North Carolina’s emerging automotive industries with valor, integrity and vision. This building is dedicated in his honor, as a way of continuing Papa Joe Hendrick and the Hendrick family’s legacy of creating meaning and opportunity in the lives of others.
Completed in fall 2006, the Joe Hendrick Center for Automotive Technology at Central Piedmont Community College’s Levine Campus provides advanced training for automotive technicians seeking to improve their skills and for students who aspire to careers as technicians in the automotive industry. The 34,000-square-foot facility is among the finest of its kind in the nation, incorporating state-of-the-art technology and equipment. Rick Hendrick, Chairman of Hendrick Automotive Group and Chairman and CEO of Hendrick Motorsports, provided a generous gift to name the Center in honor of his late father, Joe Hendrick.

Since its opening, the Hendrick Center has become an important regional training resource for leading automotive industry manufacturers, including BMW, General Motors, Toyota, and AC Delco. In addition to providing continuing education and contract training for current technicians, The College has partnered with General Motors, BMW, and Toyota to develop a two-year associates degree program for students. The Center also serves as one of the region’s largest trainers of automotive safety and emissions inspectors. Over the past year, more than 2,000 individuals have been engaged in training and curriculum programs offered at the Center.

Redline Design Group was the project architect and Choate Construction was responsible for building the Center.

Central Piedmont Community College is extremely grateful to Rick Hendrick for his naming of the Joe Hendrick Center for Automotive Technology and for his ongoing support of automotive training and education.