



*In recognition of their outstanding
Leadership & Contributions
to the Tire & Service Industry in New England*

Congratulations!

to this year's inductees for your years of dedicated service & commitment to our industry.

-Friends at NETSA

2022 Hall of Fame Inductee - Robert Vacca



Bob Vacca was born in Watertown, Massachusetts to Angelo and Mary Vacca. He grew up in Watertown with his siblings, brother Mike and sister Jane. Bob started his journey into the automotive world racing cars at New England Speedway on Sundays, while he was still in high school. In 1978 Bob took his first job in the field working as a technician at Speedy Auto Service. Little did he know that this would lead to a lifetime career in the industry and a successful twenty-one year stay at Speedy. Bob worked his way up the ladder at Speedy from technician to Assistant Manager, Manager, Marketing Manager and finally to District Manager overseeing fifty-five locations across New England.

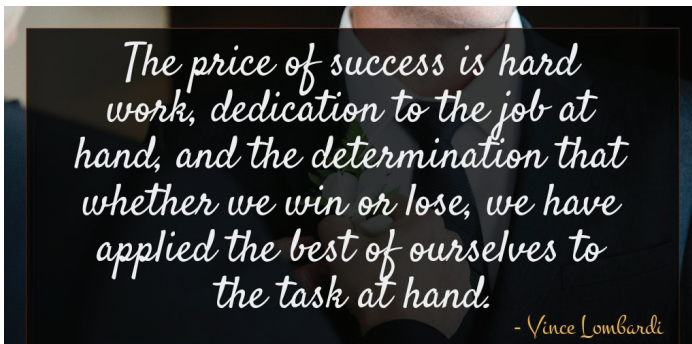
In 1995, as Bob was looking to add tires to the Speedy operations, he met Ben Kravitz and the Summit Tire team. In 1999, Ben was looking to grow his business and Bob joined his team as Marketing Manager/Store Operations where he brought his vast experience in retail automotive service. Later in 1999, Bob became Summit's Marketing Manager for the American Car Care Centers (ACCC). This turned out to be the perfect place for Bob to utilize all his experience and skills, and to turn Summit's ACCC program into one of the best, if not the best ACCC franchises in the country. He introduced parts, oil, environmental, and scrap tire programs to name a few, that helped the ACCC

dealers save money and increase profits. One of the most successful promotions developed by Bob was the ACCC Coupon Book, which enabled the dealers to sell more tires and service. Bob with his positive personality, convinced many of New England's best Independent Tire Dealers to join ACCC. His continued work with them enhanced their businesses. In his capacity he set up many successful trade shows and dealer trips.

Terry's Tire Town (TTT) purchased Summit from Ben, Harvey, and Frank in 2011. Bob continued managing the ACCC program at TTT and expanded their presence in the Ohio market where TTT was headquartered. Finally, Bob took over managing the nationwide 1200 ACCC dealer group during the final year of their existence. Bob then began developing a Marketing Program specific to TTT.

In 2010 TTT was sold to American Tire Distributors (ATD) and Bob continued his career with ATD, and has successfully served as Regional Sales Manager, Regional Sales Operations Director, and currently as Michelin Brand Sales Manager for New England. Bob is also an active member of the NETSA Executive Board and has served in that capacity for the last four years.

Bob and his wife Cindy lived in Medway, Massachusetts for many years where they raised daughters Breanna and Alecia and son Nick. Bob coached Nick in hockey and could be found watching Alecia dance or Breanna on the gymnastics floor. Bob and Cindy now live in beautiful Mashpee on Cape Cod with their three dogs. ■



2022 Hall of Fame Inductee - Blaise Pascale



NETSA President, Blaise Xavier Pascale, was born in New Haven, Connecticut on August 3, 1954, to Frank and Mildred Pascale. Unlike so many of the previous inductees to the NETSA Hall of Fame, he didn't grow up in the Tire Business. His dad was a Banker, and his mother was a Housewife. He had a younger brother Christopher, and they moved to Torrington, Connecticut where his dad was President of First Federal Savings. He attended school there and it being the '60's and '70's, it was naturally the heyday of cool Cars.

He and his friends would do the whole scene from "American Graffiti" where they drove up and down Main Street in the evenings and met up at the local McDonald's to ooh and aah over each other's cool hot rods. He was into theatre in High School and Cars, and Racing and Cars and Girls and Cars. Got his first job in the Tire Business at the local Firestone Dealer before he went away to college.

He played guitar in a local band and joined the Musician's Union. He even ended up playing backup at concerts for Art Garfunkel, Marshall Tucker, and some other big names. But he still loved cars and racing.

He started going to Lime Rock Park in Lakeville, Connecticut when he was only eight years old with his family to watch the SCCA racing. In High School and in college he even raced Dirt Track cars at Lebanon Valley, New York.

But he needed to make a living so, his real job was as a Cost Accountant at Spencer Turbine in Windsor, CT. Which is where he met his future wife, Sally Fertig, who had a summer job there while home from college. They met in May of 1977 and got married in December of 1977. They were together for 44 years, with four children: Amy, Christopher, Frank, and Margaret.

His first Tire Store experience after Firestone was when he went to work for Three Js in East Longmeadow, MA. And he stayed in the Tire Industry from then on. His most influential experience was working at Malerba's Silver City Tire in Meriden, CT for Bob Malerba. Bob is a Member of NETSA's Hall of Fame and was Blaise's mentor and dear friend. Blaise would take his younger son, Frank to work occasionally. He would paint tires and sweep the floors around 8 years old. Frank continued to follow Blaise into the Tire Industry ever since.

From there, Blaise Continued his career and worked with several other local tire companies including City Tire Co., Toce Brothers Inc., and Commercial Tire.

Blaise went on to become a member of NETSA and a Board Member after Bob Malerba stepped down and served on the Trade Show Committee for years. He made many great friends and helped with all the Trade Show set up and breakdowns and more. He eventually was elected President and served in that capacity through the beginning of the whole Covid pandemic, and with the help of the Board and the Members, still managed to ensure that all the Scholarships were still funded.

Blaise sadly suffered a massive heart attack on December 2, 2021 and was sent to Hartford Hospital in Hartford, CT, where he fought hard, but finally succumbed on December 3, 2021, in the company of his wife, Sally and son Frank.

Blaise loved his family; he loved the Tire Business and he loved NETSA. He would be honored to become a member of the Hall of Fame along with so many great and influential people who make this business what it is. On behalf of Blaise and our family, we thank NETSA for this honor. ■