



NATIONAL MOBILITY
EQUIPMENT DEALERS
ASSOCIATION

For more information:
Donna Tinoco, APR
donna.tinoco@evokad.com
cell: 407 341-1104

NMEDA INDUCTS FOUR MEMBERS INTO THE HALL OF FAME *National Mobility Conference Salutes Its Best*

TAMPA, Florida – March 24, 2014 – The National Mobility Equipment Dealers Association announced the 2014 Hall of Fame Class inductees at its recent national conference held in Reno, Nevada. James Keller, John Quandt, Peter Zarba and Bill Campbell were each recognized in heart-felt presentations as not just successful pioneers and businessmen in the industry, but also as true believers in giving back to the community through service. These distinguished recipients were selected for their immense contribution to growing and improving the automotive mobility industry and their selfless commitment to serving people with disabilities.

James Keller of Keller Wheelchair Lifts in Luzerne, Pennsylvania was the second president of NMEDA and under his leadership created the Certification Program Committee that laid the important groundwork for what has become the Quality Assurance Program (QAP) that elevated NMEDA member's opportunities for success in the industry.

John Quandt of Advanced Wheels of Technology in East Granby, Connecticut served on the NMEDA Board of Directors for eight years and as president of the organization for three years. In addition to Quandt's many improvements within NMEDA's organization structure, he also further developed the QAP program through establishing three levels of certification, 'How to Manuals' and initiated government relations efforts for NMEDA's Quality Assurance Program with the Veterans Administration. He worked to have wheelchair standards set and approved by the NMEDA Board and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Both Keller and Quandt accepted their awards with acknowledgements to the association. Peter Zarba formerly of Bussani Mobility in Bethpage, New York as was Bill Campbell formerly of Tempe Credit/Mobility in Tempe, Arizona, each passed away prior to their induction and family members accepted their awards proudly.

-more-

Zarba became a quadriplegic as the result of an automobile accident in the 1970's and began his career with Bussani as a salesman after college graduation in 1982. As a wheelchair athlete he competed in table tennis in Seoul, Korea's Paralympics in 1988 and was ranked third in the world. Table tennis was just one of his passions. He was a founding member of the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Quad Rugby Team, competed in regional road races and marathons and was named Differently-Abled Athlete of the Year in 2000 by the Nassau County New York Sports Association. Zarba won the legal right for people with disabilities to participate in the New York City Marathon. He served on the NMEDA Board as a Northern Representative and served on several NMEDA committees.

Campbell was selected for the Hall of Fame for his tireless efforts as an innovator in the area of moving forward the concept of mobility dealers across the nation showcasing lowered-floor minivans and completed modified full-sized vans on their lots. Campbell understood the need to have converted vehicles available in the field prior to the final sale so end-users could see and test-drive the vehicle before making a purchase decision. He took the lead on every aspect of the relationship between the mobility industry and automotive manufacturers. Campbell worked with the 'Big 3' automakers to allow completed units to be available across the country and to also provide financing agreements that included mobility manufactures such as VMI to convert hundreds of units on spec for sale through mobility dealerships.

"It is my privilege to celebrate these leaders in our industry," said David Hubbard, NMEDA executive director and CEO. "They have helped shape today's marketplace for automotive mobility dealers and manufacturers and the customers they serve."

About the National Mobility Equipment Dealers Association:

Founded in 1989 as a non-profit trade association, the National Mobility Equipment Dealers Association (NMEDA) supports more than 600 mobility equipment dealers, manufacturers and driver rehabilitation specialists in the U.S. and Canada dedicated to expanding opportunities for people with disabilities. NMEDA is the sponsor of National Mobility Awareness Month each May and the Local Heroes Contest that celebrates life moving forward. For information on NMEDA, please visit www.nmeda.com, as well as [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Visit MobilityAwarenessMonth.com for the national awareness month.

#