

Garry D. Chandler

Class of 1976

MCHS Hall of Fame Induction 2023

In 1976 with the windows rolled down, the radio speakers on Garry D. Chandler's white Ford Mustang blasted out the hits of Johnny Cash, Conway Twitty, and maybe even a dab of the Bee Gees. The MCHS senior probably knew the lyrics of the popular Chevrolet jingle of that era, *See the USA in Your Chevrolet, America Is Asking You to Call*, but the teenager never envisioned that 29 years later his name would grace the marquis of the area's largest General Motors dealership. But the hard work, self-motivation, sound business sense and basics acquired through Madison Consolidated Schools made that accomplishment a reality. Today, dozens of new Chevrolet trucks, sports cars, and SUVs flank the Clifty Drive business with 54 local employees inside upholding the Garry D. Chandler mission to serve others with integrity, respect, and the handshake of friendship. And just feet away from the newly renovated signature blue and chrome building stand two, large collision repair shops with the latest technology. The Hall of Fame inductee never stops advancing his business nor assessing the needs of his patrons. Like his radio commercials accentuate, Garry definitely endorses the concept of 'local'. Success, however, did not come automatically to the Jefferson County native. He sought it. He observed the strategies of others. He kept the course despite obstacles. He appreciated and never forgot those who helped along the way. Garry worked his way up the ladder in the automotive field, starting as a salesman in 1984 in the same building that bears his name today and advancing gradually in managerial responsibilities before becoming the owner of Chandler Chevrolet in 2005. To attain dealer status, however, required much more than money and Garry proudly met those criteria as well. Besides being successful, Garry's business style too has led to voluminous friendships. With no intent on buying a new vehicle, past customers - some almost daily - frequently stop by just to visit and extend morning greetings. That same Chandler mannerism extends to the general community as well. From 4-H Fair auctions to charity drives, school fundraisers, and village festivals, Chandler Chevrolet extends its financial support and when time permits, this 2023 MCHS honoree personally attends and writes the check while proffering kind, encouraging words to the beneficiaries of his generosity. This alumnus' passion for automobiles might have commenced with a Mustang, but Chevrolet, his style, and contribution to community proudly define the Garry D. Chandler legacy.

