

Toresco Family of Auto Dealerships Mourns Passing of Founder Donald Toresco

SPRINGFIELD, N.J., Feb. 21 (SEND2PRESS NEWSWIRE) – Donald M. Torresco, a pioneer of automotive retailing and founder of Autoland in Springfield, N.J., passed away Sunday, February 20, 2011; he was 71. Known as “Mr. T” to friends and colleagues, Torresco operated numerous auto dealerships throughout the Mid-Atlantic and launched many automotive sales and management careers.

In the early 1970’s Mr. Torresco opened Dodgeland, U.S.A. in Springfield, N.J. It was one of the nation’s largest Chrysler franchises. Torresco was personally cited by Lee Iacocca for “Outstanding performance and the highest degree of professionalism,” winning the Chrysler “Award of Excellence.” Dodgeland, U.S.A. was also named “Best Overall Dealership in America” by the Dodge Chargers Club.

In the early 1980’s Torresco expanded the 26-acre Springfield location, adding Jeep, Chrysler, Ford and Toyota. Renaming the business Autoland, it was one of the first “auto mall” concepts in America.

During his 50-year career Mr. Torresco established or partnered in many other dealerships throughout New Jersey including Great Western Motors, Green Brook; Dom’s Kia Isuzu and Dom’s Toyota, North Plainfield; Lexus of Englewood, NJ; Toms River Lincoln Mercury Mazda; Ocean Chevrolet Jeep in Lakewood; Toyotaland of Springfield; Crystal Automall, Green Brook; and Toyotaland of Springfield. He also owned and operated dealerships in Pennsylvania and Georgia.

A pioneer in the automotive industry, Mr. Torresco was one of the first auto dealers to implement a computerized finance system, enabling bank contracts to be electronically stored and printed.

He was an industry leader serving as Chairman of the Dodge Advertising Association; a First Charter Member of the Ram Chargers Club; Chairman of the National Dodge Dealers Advisory Council; a member of the Board of Directors of the Toyota Dealers Advertising Association; and a member and officer of the Toyota Dealer Council.

A well-known philanthropist, Mr. Torresco contributed liberally to hospitals, community organizations other charitable and cultural endeavors. He had a long-standing commitment to Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, The Epilepsy Foundation of America and The GP Foundation for Cancer Research, which supports the best and brightest researchers in the nation and ensures that the most cutting edge cancer research will be supported and nurtured.

News issued by: Torresco Family



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Original Image: https://send2pressnewswire.com/image/11-0221-toresco_72dpi.jpg

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Original Story ID: (6702) :: 2011-02-0221-001

Original Keywords: Donald M Toresco, automotive retailing, Autoland in Springfield NJ, Toyotaland, Crystal Automall, Epilepsy Foundation of America, New Jersey business news Toresco Family Springfield New Jersey SPRINGFIELD, N.J.

Alternate Headline: Donald M. Toresco, a pioneer of automotive retailing and founder of Autoland in Springfield, NJ, passed away Feb. 20, 2011

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