

Harry Tepe

Class of 1998

Owner and President, Tom Tepe Autocenter



Education:

I knew early on I wanted to be an Automotive Technician and started working during summer breaks, changing oil and tires in my father's shop and in high school for Bob Buckley's Marathon. My high school curriculum was vocational-based and I was fortunate to have some great teachers, such as the late Mr. Crowell, Mr. Boyd, and Mr. Shaw, who provided me with many skills which would prove invaluable in my future career. Those skills gave me a firm foundation to build upon.

After graduating BHS in 1998, I attended Northwestern University in Lima, Ohio and graduated with an Associates Degree in High Performance Motorsports.

Career summary:

I started my professional career and worked as an ASE Certified Automotive Technician for several years. While healing from an ATV accident, I started selling cars and, as fate would have it, I fell in love with the retail side of the business. After several years as a salesman, I worked my way into management as the Finance Manager and then Sales Manager. In 2009, I became the dealer after purchasing Tom Tepe Autocenter-Chevrolet/Buick in Milan and have grown the business to include the Car Country Group of stores with locations in Aurora, Indiana, and most recently Harrison, Ohio, and generate \$30 Million in annual revenue, employing over 80 people.

Personal info:

I split my time living in Batesville and Newport, KY. I'm known for always having my dog Marley with me. I spend a lot of time boating, hunting, trapping, and long-distance shooting. I

am the Past President of the Automobile Dealers Association of Indiana, which represents all the franchised auto dealers in the state and I continue to serve on the Board of Directors. I believe that supporting the local community is more of a responsibility than just a simple choice, Tom Tepe Autocenter/Car Country gives over \$50,000 annually to local charities, schools, and sports and civic groups. We have our annual Tom Tepe Autocenter golf tournament at North Branch Golf Course which draws over a 120 golfers and raises thousands of dollars for a selected charity which the employees get to vote on, such as the Bucket Buddies Mission and most recently SEI Voices for Children, Inc. (CASA).

Best education-related memory from BHS:

I never would have imagined at the time that Mrs. Raver's typing class would be the single most beneficial class I took while at BHS..... I type every day and would never have learned to type efficiently if it wasn't for her!!

A personal quote about the importance of education:

It's a great pleasure, and honor, to give back to the community by partnering with the Batesville Community Education Foundation for their first raffle. As a community, we are very fortunate to have such a great group of people focused on the future success of our students.