

# NEWS RELEASE



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **TOM HAMMONDS RACE FOR ACHIEVEMENT REVS UP FOR STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

**(HOLT, Fla., Feb. 5, 2008)** --Tom Hammonds is set to rev the engines of student achievement through his new program, **Tom Hammonds Race for Achievement**, for the 2008 NHRA season

"I started this program to target youth around the country, encouraging them to pursue their dreams through school achievement," explains Hammonds. "With this program, I want to stress to students it is okay to be smart and do well in school, because without an education, it can be difficult to fulfill your dreams."

**Tom Hammonds Race for Achievement** will allow Hammonds to interact with students through message. Students will participate in an assembly at a middle school in selected race cities, where he will speak to students about the importance of education, sportsmanship, and leadership. Students will also get a chance to view the NHRA Pro Stock Chevrolet Cobalt and team transporter. Fifty students meeting set criteria will be chosen to receive an O'Reilly Auto Parts Race Pack, which includes an event hat, pen, pencil, koozie, Tom Hammonds hero card, and other goodies supplied by program supporters.

Following each talk, per the teachers' and administration's recommendation, one student out of the 50 will be chosen to serve as an honorary crew member at the race. Student participation is based on maintaining a "B" average, good behavior, and no suspensions and/or unexcused absences.

The program will have its first event in conjunction with the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual O'Reilly NHRA Spring Nationals, Mar. 28-30, in Houston, with six races to follow in Madison, Ill., Topeka, Kan., Bristol, Tenn., Dallas, Memphis, Tenn., and Indianapolis.

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"O'Reilly is very excited to be associated with such a great program. Tom Hammonds has proven to be a great role model for kids, and this program is sure to be a great success," said Wes Wise director of advertising, marketing and motorsports, O'Reilly Auto Parts®.

According to an achievement study conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics, changing students' behavior toward education through positive exposure encourages higher achievement in the areas of reading, math, and science. Over time, positive student behavior toward education translates into the decrease of school dropout rate, an increase of college attendance, and sustaining economic contributions to society through employment as adults.

Hammonds and Tom Hammonds Enterprises, LLC is dedicated to rewarding students for their achievement in the classroom. By doing so it builds positive behavior towards education, self-esteem and confidence that build strong students and ultimately good citizens. Overall, the program sees itself as being a part of the community team and will always be a voice for progress in student achievement. To date, Hammonds has had the pleasure of speaking to many students encouraging them to stay in school, and while in school, be the best student they can be.

"We applaud teams, like Tom Hammonds, who take the initiative to educate students on the need to stay in school, and the importance of sportsmanship and leadership," said Gary Darcy, senior vice president of sales and marketing, NHRA.

Along with the NHRA, the program is supported by Chevrolet, O'Reilly Auto Parts®, MAC Tools, and Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company.

"Chevrolet has been proud to have been associated with Tom for several years, and now with his Race for Achievement program, he's shown once again that he is truly a Professional racer and team owner. We're sure that his program will positively touch many hundreds of students all over the country," said Fred Simmonds, GM's drag racing marketing manager.

Companies interested in being a sponsor of the program should contact Tom Hammonds Enterprises, LLC at 850-537-2021.

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### About Tom Hammonds

As an achiever in his own right and racing since the age of 16, Chevrolet backed Tom Hammonds made a triumphant return to full-time drag racing at the Gatornationals Gainesville Raceway in March 2007. He is the only African American owner (Tom Hammonds Enterprises, LLC) and driver of a race team in professional motor sports. Previous owner of a Chevrolet dealership, Hammonds was drafted 9th overall in the 1989 NBA draft and enjoyed his career with Washington, Denver, Charlotte, and Minnesota, where he completed his career. Before his illustrious NBA career, he played college basketball at Georgia Tech, where his jersey was retired for being the fourth all time leading scorer and received a bachelors of science in business management. A native of Crestview, Fla., he was inducted into the All Sports Association Hall of Fame of Fort Walton Beach, Fla. in March 2007.

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### About GM

General Motors Corp. (NYSE: GM), the world's largest automaker, has been the annual global industry sales leader for 77 years. Founded in 1908, GM today employs about 274,000 people around the world. With global headquarters in Detroit, GM manufactures its cars and trucks in 35 countries. In 2007, nearly 9.37 million GM cars and trucks were sold globally under the following brands: Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet, GMC, GM Daewoo, Holden, HUMMER, Opel, Pontiac, Saab, Saturn, Vauxhall and Wuling. GM's OnStar subsidiary is the industry leader in vehicle safety, security and information services. More information on GM can be found at [www.gm.com](http://www.gm.com).

### About O'Reilly Auto Parts®

O'Reilly Auto Parts® Store is one of the largest specialty retailers of automotive aftermarket parts, tools, supplies, equipment, and accessories in the United States, serving both the do-it-yourself and professional installer markets. Founded in 1957 by the O'Reilly family, the Company operates in over 1800 stores in 26 states.

### About MAC Tools

Mac Tools is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Stanley Works (NYSE: SWK). A leader in the professional hand tool industry, Mac Tools has delivered the best tools in the market since 1938. Mac Tools is committed to building lifetime relationships with its distributors and consumers. Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, Mac Tools distributes automotive tools and equipment in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and Japan.

### About Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company

Goodyear is one of the world's largest tire companies. The company employs about 70,000 people and manufactures its products in more than 60 facilities in 26 countries around the world. For more information about Goodyear, go to [www.goodyear.com/corporate](http://www.goodyear.com/corporate).

### About NHRA

Headquartered in Glendora, Calif., NHRA is the primary sanctioning body for the sport of drag racing in the United States. It presents 24 national events through its NHRA POWERade Drag Racing Series. NHRA has 80,000 members nationwide and 140 member tracks. The NHRA-sanctioned sportsman and bracket racing series provide competition opportunities for drivers of all levels. The NHRA develops the stars of tomorrow by offering the NHRA Lucas Oil Drag Racing Series, NHRA Summit Racing Series and the NHRA Street Legal Drags presented by AAA. NHRA also offers the O'Reilly Auto Parts Jr. Drag Racing League for youth ages 8 to 17.