

NATIONAL AUTO BODY COUNCIL

2016 Award Winners

The **Award of Distinction** celebrates selfless acts by collision industry professionals that benefit others in their communities.

Gerald Wicklund of [CARSTAR Wicklunds Collision](#) Liberty, Missouri.

Wicklund has spent his entire life in the collision repair industry, and dedicated much of his time giving back to both the industry and his community. For the past 10 years, he has hosted an annual Military Appreciation Celebration, an extravaganza which included dinner and a complete USO-style show. More than 130 veterans, active duty service members, law enforcement and first responders attended this year's event which also raised donations for Honor Flight, a non-profit organization that honors America's veterans by transporting them to Washington DC to visit and reflect at their memorials.



The **Body Shop Image Award** highlights facilities that have had a beneficial impact on their communities through building and design improvements.

[CARSTAR Macon](#), Macon, Georgia

In May, CARSTAR Macon moved into a new state-of-the-art facility and rebranded its business.

Formerly known as CARSTAR Preferred Collision, shop owner Walter Lee upgraded from an 8,500- sq. ft. facility to a modern 23,000-sq. ft. building that showcases the sophistication of today's body shops. The shop features a larger, up-to-date production area and convenient, spacious reception area while retaining the shop's warm, welcoming family feel.



The **Excellence in Community Service Award** recognizes outstanding charitable efforts and volunteerism.

Kathy Mello, [TGIF Body Inc.](#), Fremont, California

Mello's past and current volunteerism includes mentoring at-risk youth and disabled adults at Kainos Home ^ Training Center and Bridges Intervention Services, serving on the boards of the Alameda County Work Investment as a volunteer in one of the business seats and the Regional Occupational Centers in Mission Valley, Eden & Alameda College.



(L-r) Chuck Sulkala, NABC Executive Director, Kathy Mello, TGIF Body Inc., Elizabeth Clark, NABC VP of Industry Involvement and Marie Peevy, Chair, NABC Awards.

Her volunteerism extends in to the collision repair industry, serving on the Boards of WIN, the California Autobody Association, East Bay Chapter of the California Autobody Association and as a founding member of the Assured Performance Co-op Board.