

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WEAVER NAMED FINALIST IN NATIONAL AWARD

Alabamian Robert Weaver is finalist for National Humanitarian Award sponsored by NASCAR

Talladega, Alabama— Wearing his chef's hat and coat proudly embroidered with "The Icecream Man", eighty-three year young, Robert Weaver of Talladega, was at Kansas Speedway on Sunday as he was named a finalist in the Betty Jane France Humanitarian Award. A pool of 305 entrees were narrowed down to the FINAL FOUR with Weaver being selected for his over 50 years of dedication to the deaf, blind and multidisabled children of Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind.



Greg Biffle and Mike Helton help reveal the four finalists for the inaugural Betty Jane France Humanitarian Award at Kansas Speedway: They are (second from left: ROBERT WEAVER, Brenda Doner, Jake Bernstein and Patty Aber. (NASCAR)

Weaver's volunteer resume, along with the other three finalists, will be showcased on a national scale as fellow NASCAR fans across the country vote to determine who should receive a 2012 Ford Explorer from Ford and \$100,000 for the children's charity of their choice from The NASCAR Foundation. Voting began October 9th and will run through midnight on Dec. 1 on NASCAR.COM. Betty Jane France will announce the winner during the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Awards Ceremony at Wynn Las Vegas on Friday, Dec. 2 (SPEED and MRN Radio, 9 p.m. ET), culminating the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Champion's Week celebration in Las Vegas.

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The Betty Jane France Humanitarian Award will honor the passionate commitment The NASCAR Foundation Chairwoman Betty Jane France has demonstrated on behalf of charities and community works throughout her life. France, the mother of NASCAR Chairman and CEO Brian France, is credited with creating the "Speediatrics" concept, a pediatric unit with a racing-themed décor at both the Halifax Health Medical Center in Daytona Beach, Fla., and the Homestead Hospital in Homestead, Fla.

At Sunday's press conference in Kansas City, a short video of each candidate was unveiled. In Weaver's video, he was asked "why do you volunteer". Weaver proudly stated, "I'm not a volunteer...I am the highest paid person at AIDB. While I don't get an actual paper check, I get paid through direct deposit – directly to my heart." These words speak to Weaver's love, dedication and unwavering support of the deaf, blind and multidisabled children at AIDB.

Estimated to have provided of his time/talents on AIDB's campuses over 12,000 times, he is most affectionately known as The Icecream Man, but his service goes far beyond this 35 year delicious effort. He began in 1960 teaching weightlifting and bowling to Alabama School for the Blind students and has not stopped. His efforts range from constructing a new chapel at Shocco Springs which hosts thousands of children and youth ages 8-18 each year - this includes special stadium seating used by deaf children in order for them to have an unobstructed view of the programs presented in American Sign Language (ASL) to creating an endowment to support pre-school children with special needs at Samford University's Children's Learning Center; to providing clothing for the over 300 children in foster care services in the Alabama Baptist Children Home's ministries to serving as director of Sunday night worship service for deaf students at AIDB since 1989. He was instrumental in securing funds for Kiwanis Memorial Field at Alabama School for the Deaf which hosts both football and track meets against not only other deaf schools in the country but "hearing" schools in the district for which ASD has won numerous National Deaf titles in football and state individual titles in track and led fundraising efforts to build Hawkins Chapel for the AIDB Foundation which serves the spiritual needs of AIDB's campuses, an so much more.

Now, you can help Robert Weaver help AIDB by casting your online vote at www.nascar.com/award. You may vote once a day (EVERYDAY) per email address until midnight on December 1st.

About Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind

Established in 1858, AIDB is the most diverse collection of education and rehabilitation programs for deaf and blind children and adults in the country. Through five Talladega campuses and eight regional centers throughout Alabama, AIDB serves more than 20,000 deaf, blind and multidisabled individuals annually in all 67 counties of Alabama. To learn more about AIDB, log onto www.aidb.org.

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