

Toyota Motor Corporation Founder Kiichiro Toyoda Inducted into Automotive Hall of Fame

July 20, 2018

DETROIT (July 20, 2018) – Cited for his extraordinary vision and entrepreneurial spirit, Toyota Motor Corporation founder and former president Kiichiro Toyoda was inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame last evening in Detroit.

Kiichiro Toyoda was one of five industry leaders named to this year's Automotive Hall of Fame induction class. He is credited with expanding Toyoda Automatic Loom Works, a successful textile business created by his father, Sakichi Toyoda, into the world of automotive manufacturing in 1933. Kiichiro Toyoda served as president of Toyota Motor Corporation from 1941 to 1950. His technical skills and leadership forged the foundations of a company that would eventually grow to be one of the most respected corporations in the world.

"Kiichiro Toyoda embodied the foresight and innovation that few people in history possess, demonstrated by his significant contributions to the automotive industry. We are honored to include him in the 2018 induction class to the Automotive Hall of Fame," said Ramzi Hermiz, president and CEO, Shiloh Industries and board chairman, Automotive Hall of Fame.

A contingent of Toyota Motor Corporation executives, led by Chairman of the Board Takeshi Uchiyamada, were on hand at the Automotive Hall of Fame Induction and Awards Gala Ceremony on July 19. Mr. Uchiyamada accepted Kiichiro Toyoda's award on behalf of the company and the family.

"America was a special place for Kiichiro. He was amazed by the prevalence of automobiles driving around U.S. cities in the late 1920s, and that was the catalyst for his determination to establish an automotive industry in his home country. As a successor and his grandson, I am very grateful and proud that Kiichiro has been inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame in America," said Akio Toyoda, president of Toyota Motor Corporation. "Kiichiro boldly changed Toyota's business model from automatic looms to automobiles without being constrained by previous successes. As his induction comes at a time when our industry is facing profound changes, I believe his message today would be to work hard to help the industry revolutionize the future

of mobility, even if success is not immediate. I deeply appreciate the Automotive Hall of Fame for inducting my grandfather and our founder,” he added.

The celebration was highlighted by the presence of a 1936 Toyoda AA replica vehicle, on loan from the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles. The Toyoda AA was designed and manufactured under the guidance of Kiichiro Toyoda. The AA was the company’s first production automobile and served as Kiichiro Toyoda’s initial opportunity to experiment with waste-free and efficiency-focused production techniques, including the famous “just-in-time” concept. The vehicle helped pave the way for the renowned “Toyota Production System.”

Kiichiro Toyoda

Cooperated with his father Sakichi to develop automatic loom as well as textile machinery. Based on the foundations of those loom business, Kiichiro Toyoda devoted himself to the development of domestic technology in pursuit of mass production of automobiles and built the foundations of the automobile industry. Here, we trace the course of Kiichiro’s life.

1894

- Kiichiro Toyoda born in Shizuoka Prefecture(113-2, Yamaguchi, Yoshizu-mura, Fuchi-gun)

1924

- Completes non-stop shuttle change automatic loom TypeG

1929

- Patent for automatic loom is transferred to Platt Brothers & Co.,Ltd.of the U.K.

1931

- High-draft spinning frame completed
- Small gasoline engine prototype (with a 4PS output) developed

1934

- Plant for prototype production completed
Installation of machinery and equipment imported from the West begins

- Steel mill completed
 - First Type A engine completed
-

1935

- First Model A1 passenger car prototype completed
 - Decision to double capital and begin full-scale automobile production made at an extraordinary stockholders's meeting;burden of capital increase to ¥3,000,000 taken by Toyoda Bogyoku Shou
 - Model G1 prototype truck completed
-

1936

- Mass production of Model AA passenger cars (improved Model A1) starts
 - Kariya Assembly Plant (today's Kariya Plant at Toyota Auto Body Co.,Ltd.) starts operations
 - Toyota logo designed; product name changed from Toyoda to Toyota
 - Production of Model GA truck (improved Model G1) starts
-

1937

- Toyota Motor Co.,Ltd. established
-

1938

- Construction of Koromo Plant completed
 - Koromo Plant starts flow and Just-in-Time production
 - Research laboratory for airplanes established at Koromo Plant
-

1939

- Shibaura Plant established; storage battery research laboratory established at Shibaura Plant
- Prototype Model AE passenger car ("Shin-Nihon") completed

1940

- Tianjin Plant divided to establish Hokushi Jidosha Kogyo
- Toyoda Steel Works,Ltd. (today's Aichi Steel Works, Ltd.) established
- Toyoda Physical and Chemical Research Institute established

1941

- Toyoda Machine Works, Ltd. established

1942

- Shanghai Plant divided to establish Kachu Toyoda Jidosha Kogyo
- Airplane Department started

1943

- Tokai Hikoki Co.,Ltd. (today's Aisin Seiki Co.,Ltd.) established

1945

- Kariya Plant becomes independent; changes to Toyota Shatai Kogyo,Ltd.

1947

- Production of Model SA small passenger car (Toyota's first small passenger car) started

1948

- Nisshin Tsusho Kaisya Ltd.(today's Toyoda Tsusho Corporation) established

1949

- Nagoya Rubber Co.,Ltd.(today's Toyoda Gosei co.,Ltd) established
- Nippondenso Co.,Ltd.(today's Denso Corporation) established.

1950

- First Model BX truck prototype completed; undergo 5,000km running test

- Toyota Motor Sales Co.,Ltd. established
 - Minsei Spinning Co.,Ltd. (today's Toyoda Boshoku Corp.) established
-

1951

- Production of Model BX 4-ton truck (improved Model BM) and the Model BY bus started
-

1952

- Development of first-generation Crown automobile begins
- Kiichiro dies aged 57; posthumously awarded the Fourth Class Order of the Sacred Treasure and the Junior Grade of the Fifth Rank of Honor by the Japanese government