



Automotive Aftermarket News

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Elected to the Texas House of Representatives in a special election in February 2005 (79th Regular Session), **Joe Straus, III**, was elected as Speaker of the House, the chamber's presiding officer, by his peers at the commencement of the 81st Regular Legislative Session on January 13, 2009.

Speaker Straus comes from the legendary Straus family, owners of the Straus Frank Company of San Antonio, the business that started as the L. Frank Saddle and Harness Company in San Antonio in 1870, and evolved from saddles and harnesses into the long time APSA member, Straus Frank Company, a very respected and successful Carquest automotive parts distribution and retail empire with locations throughout the Southwest. The company was recently sold and is now a division of General Parts Inc., Raleigh, N.C.

The fact that Speaker Straus, in only his second full Texas House of Representatives term, was elected Speaker of the House over much longer tenured House members speak to the respect he has gained in a very short period of time.

Speaker Straus is a graduate of Vanderbilt University with a B.A. in Political Science. He is an avid sportsman with a lifelong passion for thoroughbred breeding. He is married to Julie Brink Straus and they have two daughters, Sara and Robyn.



APSA salutes Joe Straus, III. One of our own.

Speaker Straus and wife Julie during swearing in ceremony.

VAN GORP NEW APSA REPRESENTATIVE FOR IOWA AND NEBRASKA

We are proud to announce **Robert "Bob" Van Gorp** is the new APSA field representative for the states of Iowa and Nebraska. Bob has worked in the territory for many years with his own agency, Seven Acres Sales, and for AWDI in Council Bluffs, Iowa. He will continue to work in his current capacities adding the APSA responsibilities.

Welcome aboard Bob!



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Allen Lyon, Auto Parts & Equipment, Farmington, New Mexico, is the current Chairman of the Automotive Engine Rebuilders Association (AERA) and second generation owner of the Carquest jobber store his father M.G. "Smokey" Lyon founded in 1959.

Allen serves on the APSA Board of Directors and is a Trustee on both the APSA Insurance Trust and the Morris/Rupp Educational Trust and serves on the newly formed Government Affairs Committee.

Allen was also a long time member and very strong supporter of the New Mexico Automotive Parts & Services Association, serving in many capacities including the Board of Directors.

Although he stays extremely busy in his business, it is obvious Allen finds time to give back to his industry.

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