

The Meter Setter

8

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The Dave Kunkel Cruise-In for ALS

In 1973, Dave Kunkel started work at The Ford Meter Box Company in Wabash, Indiana. Beginning his career at Ford Meter Box as assistant foundry manager, Dave soon became foundry manager and proved to be an outstanding foundryman. Under Dave's leadership, the Ford Meter Box foundry became a "world class" foundry, with well-trained employees operating state-of-the-art machinery utilizing the very latest foundry methods. Dave became Senior Vice President of Manufacturing in 1997, assuming responsibility for the entire manufacturing operation. Dave was appointed to the board of directors of the Ford Meter Box Company and was also a director of the Ford Meter Box Foundation.



Dave spearheaded the company's focus to support education in the local school systems. Leadership and the ability to delegate responsibilities were Dave's strengths. His big smile and willingness to talk with anyone was known throughout the factory. He loved his job and worked until his last days. Dave had ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) and suffered



through diminishing muscle strength for many months. In spite of this immense challenge, Dave retained his positive outlook on life and was an inspiration to everyone around him.

Dave also had a passion for cars. One of his greatest pleasures in life was driving his 1965 metallic blue Corvette convertible. It was common to hear Dave engaged with other Ford employees in a lively conversation on the topic of classic cars. Several of those employees decided to organize a memorial cruise-in with all proceeds dedicated to raising awareness about ALS. A few months later, the first Dave Kunkel Cruise-In was held in Wabash, Indiana. This year, the third Kunkel Cruise-In continued to attract hundreds of cars, trucks, and motorcycles, raising thousands of dollars for ALS research.

Dave was always willing to help with worthy causes and would lend his time and efforts for the betterment of his community. Acting on his behalf, many others are now working to help bring hope to those who suffer from ALS. You can learn more about ALS at <http://als.mdausa.org/>.



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