



# NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CAPA Adds Collision Repairer Mike West to Board**

Washington, DC: CAPA continues to broaden the expertise of its board with the election of Mike West, Southtowne Auto Rebuild in Tukwila, WA. Mr. West was elected to the collision repairer position vacated by Jerry Kottschade, who recently completed his second three-year term on the Board.

At his final meeting after serving on the CAPA board for two terms (6 years) and previously on CAPA's Technical Committee, Jerry Kottschade was acknowledged by the CAPA Board and Executive Director for the incredible service he has provided as a board member in furthering CAPA's goal of providing the market with high quality, competitive parts.

“For years Jerry Kottschade has been a strong voice for the collision repair industry, never wavering in his insistence on developing an effective response to the quality concerns of his industry segment,” said Bob Anderson, CAPA's Chairman of the Board, “Thanks to his efforts, CAPA today is a stronger, more effective and more reliable tool for collision repairers who want both quality and competition.”

“His efforts and insight have made a significant contribution to the improved quality of competitively priced automotive parts. His work has gone a long way to ensure that the American consumer truly benefits from a free and open marketplace,” said Jack Gillis, Executive Director of the Certified Automotive Parts Association. “Jerry was instrumental in ensuring that CAPA efforts considered the needs of today's collision repairer.”

Replacing Mr. Kottschade on CAPA's board will be Mike West. “We are excited to have the collision repairer of the caliber of Mike West, join CAPA's efforts to bring about high quality alternative parts, said Bob Anderson.”

Michael J. West began his career in the collision repair industry in 1963 and held a variety of positions in Denver and Seattle until 1972, when he opened Southtowne Auto Rebuild, which he and his wife Donna have operated for 34 years. West maintains an avid interest in continuing education and vocational training within the collision repair industry. He served for eight years on the advisory board of Renton Technical College and 5 years on the advisory board of South Seattle Community College. On both Boards he has served as chairman. He is certified by ASE as a Master Collision Repair/Refinish Technician and was named Collision Repair Technician of the Year in 1992 by Body Shop Business Magazine.

In 1996, his company, Southtowne Auto Rebuild, received the SCRS Green Shop Award for environmental services to his community and in 1998, he and his wife, Donna, received the National Auto Body Council, Collision Industry Pride Award for outstanding humanitarian service. West received the Auto Body Repair News/ASE Emil Stanley Award in 1997 for having achieved the highest test score in the Non-Structural Analysis and Damage Repair Certification test, nationally.

West served six years on the Board of Directors of ASE and six years on the Collision Division Operations Committee of ASA National. He was awarded ASA's Phoenix Award in 2001 and Body Shop Business Magazine's Collision Repair Industry Executive of the Year Award in 2002 at NACE. He volunteers as an I-CAR Steel Weld Quality Test Examiner since the program's inception over 10 years ago and is an I-CAR Instructor in the Aluminum Repair series including the Aluminum Weld Quality Test. Mike is an I-CAR Platinum Class Individual. He is a Past President of the Autobody Craftsman Association of Washington State and is the Collision Division Director of ASA-Washington serving on the Board of Directors and as Government Affairs Committee Chairman.

*The Certified Automotive Parts Association, founded in 1987, is the nation's only independent, non-profit, third party crash parts quality certification organization. CAPA certification identifies, for both consumers and the industry, those parts that meet our high quality standards for fit, form, finish, material content and corrosion resistance. For more information see [www.CAPAcertified.org](http://www.CAPAcertified.org).*

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