

# WHAT DO YOU WANT?



The new guy at the helm at Ford, Jim Farley, is a man who asks what the consumer wants, and truly listens to what they have to say. Recently, he invited several journalists to join him in Las Vegas where he presented his ideas for the future of Ford, and where he also asked us what we wanted to see happen with the Mustang.

Just prior to shipping this issue, I was at the Mid America Ford Performance Meet and Team Shelby Nationals in Tulsa. Among the people I was fortunate to interview was Carroll Shelby. We had a long talk on many topics, including Jim Farley. Carroll Shelby has known Jim Farley for many years, and is highly optimistic about the future of Ford Motor Company, especially with the executives working together. People like Robert Parker and Fritz Wilke, people who have the passion for the product and passion for the consumer, the hobby, and the hobbyist.

So, here's your chance. Jim Farley wants to know what you, the "core" of the Mustang hobby want to see in future Mustangs. Please send your suggestions and comments to me and I will print all of them in *Mustang Times*, and I will also forward your suggestions to Mr. Farley. Additionally, don't hesitate to tell them if there's something you don't like. As with everything in life, there are no guarantees that they will implement every suggestion. But isn't it great to have leadership who is interested enough to ask and sincere enough to listen?

The 2009 Mustang brochures will be in your local dealerships by the time you read this. So, go visit a dealer, and check them out.

Those of us who grew up with the Mustang from day one have seen it evolve. While many of us will always love the classic Mustang, and remember the '60's (well, almost remember the '60s) as the Muscleder heyday, I have to believe that these days of the muscleder are better. And, the Mustang is at the helm. How many car shows across the country draw thousands spectators to see one marque? Does the Camaro have the following that the Mustang has earned? Will it ever, for that matter? I seriously doubt it.

So, I'm again strongly encouraging you to send me your suggestions that you'd like to have passed along to Ford. All I ask is that you be realistic, as concise as possible. Positive and negative comments are welcomed. And, remember, we're a family publication!

Read the first article on the Mystical Build for the Cure project on page 16. It may be a long road, but with your help, we'll make it!

I'm writing this editorial on my flight back from Tulsa. For me, personally, the loss of Tony Pate earlier this month is devastating. He was more than a co-worker, more than a partner, he was my friend. We worked hard on producing *Mustang Times* each month, and we had a good time doing it. I can't tell you how much I will miss him. The weekend news was filled with tributes to NBC correspondent Tim Russert after his sudden death. Sandi Pate and I had a conversation about how much Tony loved to watch "Meet the Press" with her on Sunday mornings. Tony also loved to have highly charged conversations, and loved to share a good laugh. Tony is probably now having some one-on-one conversations with Tim Russert while the Lord watches and smiles at them both.

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