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## **GB Remanufacturing's Michael Kitching Receives Michael Cardone Leadership Award**

*MERA Award recognizes individuals for exceptional leadership in the sustainable manufacturing community*

SOUTHFIELD, MICH. USA – Mar. 3, 2021 – Michael Kitching, President and CEO, GB Remanufacturing, Inc., is the recipient of the 2020 Michael Cardone Leadership Award. The award, presented by MERA - The Association for Sustainable Manufacturing, recognizes individuals who demonstrate exceptional leadership in remanufacturing and sustainability.

The award was presented during the MERA 10th Anniversary Celebration on Feb. 25, 2021, by MERA President and COO John Chalifoux, MERA Founding Chairman Michael Cardone, Jr. and MERA Director Michael Cardone III, who also serves as President of MC3 Capital. At the virtual event, Chalifoux highlighted the legacy of the Cardone family, and all three individuals recognized Kitching for his vision, passion, teamwork and excellence – the key traits associated with the award.

“This award recognizes individuals and companies that have elevated the recognition, visibility and acceptance of the remanufacturing industry in the global economy and supply chain,” said Michael Cardone Jr. “It takes a leader with a passion for excellence and a great team, so we also congratulate your team at GB Remanufacturing for what you’ve done together for our industry, especially during the pandemic.”

In the spring of 2020, at the start of the pandemic in the United States, Michael Kitching and his team at GB Remanufacturing wanted to help. After reaching out to Long Beach Memorial Medical Center in California, Kitching was asked if GB Remanufacturing could produce a critical ventilator part that was in short supply. Kitching immediately agreed and challenged his

engineering department to develop a solution, and to do it stat. Rather than 3D print single-use parts, the GB Remanufacturing team decided to machine the parts out of a material that could be used multiple times after enduring a high-temperature disinfecting process. This approach would allow the part to be used multiple times, significantly increasing the number of available ventilators. GB Remanufacturing moved fast and donated dozens of parts to the hospital. Their quick action undoubtedly helped patients and addressed a weak link that was identified by the hospital at the start of the COVID-19 crisis.

“Michael, your action really encapsulates the creativity of remanufacturers and our reliance on amazing people,” said Michael Cardone III. “You embody what remanufacturing stands for and we are excited to see you receive this award today.”

“Wow, coming from you, two pioneers in the remanufacturing industry, it couldn’t mean more,” said Michael Kitching. “I feel very blessed. The team was given a great opportunity to help, and we did.”

In 2017, the MERA Board of Directors announced the formation of the Michael Cardone Leadership Award in honor of three generations in the Cardone family. In 1970, Michael Cardone Jr. co-founded CARDONE Industries with his late father Michael Cardone Sr. The company grew to become the largest family-owned remanufacturer of automotive parts in the world. Previous recipients of the Michael Cardone Leadership Award are:

- Byron Schneidman, Partner, RSM US LLP (2019)
- Woody Knopf, Former Chairman, Knopf Automotive (2018)
- Eric Smith, Owner, Impression Products (2017)

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#### **About MERA**

MERA - The Association for Sustainable Manufacturing is the remanufacturing and sustainability division of MEMA. With roots in the transportation industry, MERA represents the interests of the broader remanufacturing community across multiple industry sectors. The organization is a network of manufacturers, suppliers, universities, and professional services firms that promotes the economic, environmental, and product performance benefits of remanufacturing and similar forms of sustainable manufacturing.

MERA is the home of Manufactured Again Certification, where remanufacturing passes the same international quality tests as new manufacturing. The program—based on ISO 9001 and IATF 16949—also promotes corporate social responsibility, particularly environmental stewardship.

Learn more about MERA and Manufactured Again Certification at [MERA.org](http://MERA.org) and [ManufacturedAgain.com](http://ManufacturedAgain.com).

### **About GB Remanufacturing**

Started in 1986 by Bill and Michael Kitching, GB remanufactures and distributes premium gasoline and diesel fuel system related products to its customers around the world.

Bill and Michael started the company in a leased 1,100 square foot building in Signal Hill, California. The company's original product offering was remanufactured carburetor choke pull-offs that were distributed to carburetor rebuilders. As the years progressed and automotive technology evolved, the company expanded its offerings and moved a short distance to its current location in Long Beach, California.

Today, the company has grown to over one hundred employees, 1,200 products and has become the market leader in providing premium remanufactured gasoline and diesel fuel injectors, diesel electronics and components to the automotive aftermarket.

GB is still family owned and operated. We owe our success to our dedicated employees, providing our customers with the highest quality products, and our unwavering commitment to provide excellence in customer service.

Learn more about GB Remanufacturing at [GBreman.com](http://GBreman.com).

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