

April 26, 2023

I am currently out of state assisting family members in Northern California or I would have been in attendance to voice my support and welcome Ford Motor Company to the Marshall community.

I am originally from the Detroit metropolitan area where I spent the first eighteen years of my life before being inducted into the US Army in 1966. Many members of my family are or were employees of Ford Motor Company in various capacities and locations throughout the State of Michigan. My father and mother in law both were employed at the Ford Willow Run factory where B-24 Liberator bomber planes were produced that were instrumental in allowing the USA and Allied Powers to win World War II. Many of my family members retired from Ford Motor Company. Ford Motor Company, a Michigan Company, and one of "The Big Three" automobile manufacturers made Detroit (and Michigan) the Automobile Capital of the World.

My wife and I have been residents of the Marshall Community for thirty six years. Our four children were raised here. The area is rich in history which many equate specifically to such things as buildings, roads and museums.

I will agree that these objects have tremendous historical significance, but for me pride is the driving factor for a community's history and future. I am proud of my life, my family and work in the Marshall area. I am proud and respect my local elected officials and the associated board volunteers who unselfishly give their time to keep our form of representative government stable and consistent with the State of Michigan constitution. I am overwhelmed with pride for those individuals who orchestrated this site for the Blue Oval Battery facility.

Ford Motor Company—Michigan Based, Marshall Proud.

I welcome Ford Motor Company to the Marshall Community. Thank you for this opportunity for today and for future generations.

Ronald Howland
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Sent from my iPhone