

Capitol Day 2015 in Jackson, Mississippi was a first time event and it was an unqualified success. Steve Kean of Rick's Pro Truck, Randal Ward (President AAAS), Tally Noah of Big 10 Tire and Christine Sankar and Terisha Lee of LKQ Corporation, walked the halls of the capitol in Jackson and met with over a dozen legislators on January, 21, 2015.

Mississippi Capitol Day 2015 gave the members of the association an opportunity to introduce themselves and their businesses to legislators. It also gave the members a chance to promote the automotive aftermarket industry in Mississippi and make legislators aware of the concerns and issues regarding the industry. "Capitol Day was well worth the time and a great success in my mind. I never recognized the importance of our industry being politically active until now. I was able to see how our efforts could help set the stage for an effort to either defeat or pass a piece of legislation. I saw firsthand that our legislators are actually interested and concerned about us as business people and employers. I believe our effort helped educate those we met with and certainly strengthened our hand in the legislature. I believe we have some friends in Jackson." stated Steve Kean, AAAS Board of Directors member.

The Capitol Days events are set up to allow the association membership and staff to meet legislators, to help educate the elected representatives about the aftermarket industry, our issues and concerns. The members and staff establish relationships and build rapport with legislators and offer themselves as a resource on questions or issues the legislators may face in years to come. The next Capitol Days event is scheduled for Florida March 24-25. 2016 will see the first Alabama Capitol Day. These events allow AAAS to advocate for a strong, free and competitive automotive aftermarket industry to those legislators that make decisions affecting the industry. AAAS Chairman Mike Morgan of Frost Transmission in Gadsden, Alabama stated "We feel like our Capitol Day events, along with our day to day efforts and our strong Political Action Committee (PAC), fit perfectly into the effort to establish a nationwide legislative advocacy network recently announced by the Auto Care Association, the Alliance of State Automotive Aftermarket Associations and the Alliance of Auto Service Providers. We are proud to have our association taking a leadership role in this tremendously important effort".

Capitol Day is an annual event facilitated by AAAS for its members. The event strengthens the association's hand in advocating for a strong, free and competitive automotive aftermarket industry to legislators that make decisions affecting the industry. We encourage more members to join us for Capitol Days events. Florida Capitol Day is scheduled for March 24-25 and Alabama will see its first Capitol Day in 2016.



Caption Names for MS Picture Senator Russell Jolly: Left to right Tally Noah, Big 10 Tires, Randal Ward, AAAS President, Senator Russell Jolly, Steve Kean, Rick's Pro Truck & Auto Accessories, Christine Sankar, LKQ.