

# Automotive News

## Innovative dealer leaves charitable legacy

[Donna Harris](#) |

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Wayne Kuni, chairman of Kuni Automotive, died of lung cancer Friday, Feb. 3. He was 75.

Kuni Automotive, of Vancouver, Wash., operates 10 dealerships in four Western states. It had estimated group revenues of \$700 million last year.

Kuni set up an unusual succession plan that enabled him to donate most of his business proceeds to charity while keeping his dealership group intact.

"Things don't make you happy," Kuni told *Automotive News* in an interview last year. They are just things."

Kuni, a Detroit native, joined General Motors in 1954 as a service representative in Chevrolet's Flint, Mich., zone office. In 1955, he began working with retailers for Motors Holding, a business unit of GM that supervises struggling and startup dealerships.

Kuni left GM to open his first dealership in 1970.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia Andersen Kuni, of Vancouver, Wash.; three children, Michael, Sean and Kimberly; two grandchildren, two stepsons, a stepdaughter, a step-grandson, and a brother, William Kuni Jr.

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Wayne Kuni

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