

**STATEMENT
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**With Great Sadness UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust
Announces the Passing of Chairperson Robert Naftaly on November 3**

- *Naftaly, well-known business and community leader, served as independent chair of the Trust's governance committee when the Trust was launched until his death*
- *Self-described as the man-behind-the-scenes, Naftaly is credited with building the leadership team and infrastructure of the Trust, shepherding its continued strength and success*
- *Today the Trust provides access to care for 530,000 UAW eligible retiree members in 50 states and holds investment assets of over \$58 billion on behalf of the retirees it serves*

Detroit, Michigan... Robert H. Naftaly, 86, longtime independent chairperson of the UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust's governance Committee passed away on November 3, 2024.

"We are deeply saddened by the loss of our chairperson Bob Naftaly. Bob's long tenured service to the Trust from its inception was invaluable, and he will be dearly missed," said Jessica Gubing, CEO of the Trust. "Working alongside of him I appreciated his witty sense of humor, unparalleled attention to detail, sound advice and insights which were always anchored to the best interests of the Trust and our retiree members. His many contributions can be seen in the Trust's strength and success, leaving a tremendous legacy for which he will always be remembered."

"Bob continuously upheld the mission of the Trust—to provide every member with health benefits and the opportunity to achieve their best quality of life," continued Gubing. "We are especially grateful for the passion he carried in his heart for our members and commitment to the long-term viability of the Trust. The Trust extends its sympathies and gratitude to Bob's family for his invaluable service to the Trust."

Funeral details are being handled by [Ira Kaufman Chapel](#).

Bob's leadership was instrumental in the on-going success of the Trust. Since its founding, the Trust has improved medical benefits significantly and introduced innovative programs to enhance the health and well-being of its retiree members. The Trust's investment office ensures its assets are managed properly for the benefit of the current and future retirees and their families.

He was able to forge consensus because he always brought the right tools to the issue—integrity, honesty, kindness, and focus on the core mission of the Trust: serving our retirees. Everyone knew they could trust Bob and knew that his only motivation was serving the retirees and their families. It was those qualities that made him such an effective leader.

UAW President Shawn Fain said today, “In the years since 2008, Bob has served our retirees with honor and excellence and has proven many times over that he was the perfect person for this vital role.”

“Bob’s integrity and leadership contributed to one of the most successful benefit funds in the United States,” commented Mark Anson, independent Committee member. “Today, the Trust has current assets in excess of its forecasted medical liabilities—one of the few benefit funds in the U.S. that has such a beneficial financial position. This strength has enabled the Trust to increase its medical benefits over time.”

“Those of us who were fortunate to know Bob remember him for his wisdom laced with humor—I can hear him even now,” Anson stated. “The success of the Trust is a capstone to his long career—a fitting tribute to his years of dedication and commitment.”

“Bob was mission-driven,” said Francine Parker, the Trust’s executive director from 2008 until her retirement in 2019. “While our paths crossed in healthcare, Bob’s interests and experience were broad—family, faith, community, politics, finance, and much more. Bob described himself as the man behind-the-scenes at the Trust, always giving credit to others. Make no mistake. He was a shepherd, a vigilant steward that helped secure the future of the Trust, always mindful of his responsibility to the retirees.”

Over a million UAW retirees and their families have benefited from Bob’s service and will continue to benefit for the rest of their lives.

About the UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust

The UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust was formed as a result of the 2007 contract negotiations between the UAW and each of the three autos — GM, Chrysler and Ford — as a means to protect retiree health benefits. When the UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust launched in 2010, it was the largest non-governmental purchaser of retiree health care in the U.S. The Trust’s mission is to provide every member with health benefits and the opportunity to achieve their best quality of life. The Trust administers health care plans that covered approximately 530,000 eligible UAW-represented retirees and eligible family members in 2022. Source: Annual Summary Report.

The Trust is a responsible steward of its assets which are invested with the goal of providing access to quality affordable health care benefits and services for its members today and in the future. As of December 31, 2022, the Trust had assets of \$58.6 billion under investment management. The Trust’s spend for health benefits during 2022 totaled \$4 billion. Source: Annual Summary Report.

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