

Gregory Baranco

Gregory Baranco is president and CEO of Baranco Automotive Group consisting of Baranco Buick Pontiac GMC in Lilburn, Georgia; Mercedes Benz of Buckhead in Atlanta, Georgia and **smart** Center Buckhead in Atlanta, Georgia. A native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Mr. Baranco graduated from Southern University in 1970, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. In 1999, he also received an Honorary Doctorate degree in Business from Southern University. In 1978, he founded Baranco Pontiac, Inc. Since then, he has received numerous awards sponsored by General Motors (Pontiac GMC), Ford (Lincoln-Mercury) and American Honda (Acura). Since 1990, his automotive group has remained one of Black Enterprise Magazine's top 100 businesses and has appeared on the magazine's cover. He has received the finalist status for the coveted Time Magazine Quality Dealer Award. Gregory Baranco is a member of the Georgia Automobile Dealers Association (GADA) and the Metro Atlanta Automobile Dealers Association (MAADA).

He served as President (1985) of the Metropolitan Atlanta Automobile Dealers Association (during which time he was part of a board that successfully reinstated the annual automotive show and instituted a scholarship program for vocationally talented students seeking careers in the automotive field).

Mr. Baranco is actively involved in his community. As Chairman of the Board of First Southern Bank in Lithonia, Georgia, he negotiated a merger with Citizens Trust Bank of Atlanta, Georgia. This merger made the new Citizens Trust Bank the third largest minority bank in the U.S. He serves on the following boards; Southern University College of Business Board of Visitors, and Trustee for Morehouse School of Medicine and Berry College. He also serves on the Carter Center Board of Councilors and Kaiser Permanente Foundation Health Plan of Georgia.

Mr. Baranco has served as business mentor to students from Howard University, Spelman College and Southern University. He is a member of One Hundred Black Men of Dekalb County, the United Way and the Dekalb County Task Force on Efficiency in Government. He has received recognition for his contributions to the Metropolitan Atlanta Red Cross, the Dekalb Council for the Arts, the United Negro College Fund, St. Joseph's Hospital and the Dekalb County Education Program. Mr. Baranco is married to attorney Juanita Powell Baranco and they have four children.