

## **2011 Ford Explorer Celebration Speech**

I would like to start by thanking everyone for coming out to celebrate the launch of another Ford flagship vehicle here at Chicago Assembly. Also, I would like to give a thank you to the entire UAW leadership team that works to protect and help the cause of Local 551 members. Along with the local UAW leadership, a warm welcome to the International UAW and thank you for all the support that Chicago Assembly has received over the years.

Today marks the celebration of more than just the official launch of the Ford Explorer. It is symbolic of the revitalization of Ford Motor Company and the reinvention of the Ford brand. And as significant as this is, it also proves without any doubt that given the opportunity and resources that Chicago UAW workers can not only compete but blow away any competition.

For the UAW workforce, I would like to personally say thank you for all the hard work and sacrifice. Wall Street experts like to heap praise on a select few and pretend that the men and women who actually build the vehicles are incidental to the successful turn around of the company. To these experts we say you are ill informed and to the company we respectfully say it is time to turn the page on concessions and get back sacrifices of the past. Thank You.

Now I would like to introduce an individual that has fought for working men and women for decades, never losing sight that workers deserve a fair shake. Please give a warm welcome to Mr. Brock Roy.