

# In Tribute...

Compiled by Motor Trend staff and Gary Witzenburg

We've lost a legend in Ford Motor Company's history, and my family and I have lost a dear friend. Carroll Shelby is one of the most recognized names in performance-car history, and he's been successful at everything he's done.

Whether helping Ford dominate the 1960s racing scene or building some of the most famous Mustangs, his enthusiasm and passion for great automobiles over six decades have inspired everyone who worked with him. He was a great innovator whose legend at Ford will never be forgotten. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.

Edsel B. Ford II, member, Ford board of directors

He was one of the best people in motorsport. He was a mentor, a beloved friend, and like a father to me. He was a business partner with George Hurst, so we worked with him on a lot of projects. He helped me through a lot of things both business and personal, and he appreciated my gray matter.

Linda Vaughn, former Ms. Hurst Golden Shifter and automotive industry icon

We've lost one of the most iconic racer[s] and car designer[s] of all time. Carroll Shelby will be missed. Go rest high on that mountain, my friend.

Darrell Waltrip, three-time NASCAR Cup Series Champion, via Twitter

Carroll Shelby was a dear friend of our family. Galpin Ford was one the first Shelby dealers in the country. He meant so much to me as mentor and friend. I really loved the man. There was no one else like him. It was an honor to know him. My father [Bert Boeckmann] was with me when we got the news, and we are both very saddened. Dad calls him a free spirit who was wonderful to work with and a lot of fun. We will all miss him tremendously.

Beau Boeckmann, vice president, Galpin Ford

Just learned that Carroll Shelby passed away. You will be missed, my friend. We are honored to have known you.

Jay Leno, TV personality and car collector, via Twitter

Carroll was larger than life, responsible for some of the most legendary cars, including the Cobra, the GT40, the Shelby Mustang, and the Viper. His cars command some of the highest prices on our auction block, and for good reason: When you buy a Shelby, you know you're going to own a piece of automotive history. His passing is a true loss for all of us—at Barrett-Jackson and within the industry as a whole. He was an icon I was proud to call a friend.

Craig Jackson, chairman and CEO, Barrett-Jackson

When I came to Ford, Carroll and I would talk often about the next big project. He always wanted to go one better than the Corvette, that's why the new GT500 had to be at least 650 hp! I once asked him what his favorite project was. He gave me his sly, trademark smile and said, "The last one!" Carroll Shelby truly was a real life hero, inspiring generations of us. We will all miss him, especially at Monterey in August when we will gather as admirers for the 50th anniversary of the Shelby Cobra, a car some of us will be lucky to race in. Our industry has lost a giant and it won't be the same without him.

Jim Farley, group vice president, Global Marketing, Sales and Service, Ford Motor Co.

I was SCCA racing a Cobra and looking to upgrade my license from Regional to National. I asked him to give me a check ride. He said, "OK." He rode with me for several laps, then I asked him, "How did I do?" In front of a whole bunch of people, he said, "Neale, I suggest you stick with painting pictures of race cars instead of trying to drive them."

Bill Neale, artist and industry icon



him a real icon.

Mario Andretti, former F1

away. His automotive contributions made

Sad to hear legendary Carroll Shelby passed

World Champion, via Twitter

There've been a lot of long faces here.

There've been a lot of long faces here.
Especially in design. We did a lot of concepts
with him. One was documented on The
Learning Channel. It was the Cobra Roadster
Concept (2004). It was a full-blown prototype

with an aluminum spaceframe. We worked all night to get it ready. We shipped it from Dick Hutting's [Ford Design] Valencia studio to Irwindale Speedway [in California]. Carroll said, "I'd like to take it for a ride." Dick Hutting got in the passenger seat, and Carroll did the first few laps at a relaxed pace. Suddenly, he just gunned the thing. He did five laps at 130 mph. He absolutely scared the hell out of Hutting. [On another drive] The Learning Channel followed Carroll driving the car, with a helicopter. He did about three minutes of donuts. Bloody hell, that's Carroll Shelby.

J Mays, Ford Motor Company, group vice president, Design and Chief Creative Officer

Met Carroll at Pebble Beach years ago, we chatted like best friends. Incredible grace. He will be missed as we thank him for paving the way.

Ralph Gilles, president and CEO of the SRT Brand and senior vice president, Design at Chrysler Group LLC via Twitter

2000

Shelby enters in a lawsuit against Factory Five Racing over the Cobra, 427 S/C, Shelby, Shelby Cobra, Daytona Coupe, and Daytona Coupe Cobra trademarks. The lawsuit is settled out of court.

### 2002

Shelby is roped in as a consultant for the new Ford GT. The car is introduced to much fanfare at that year's North American International Auto Show in Detroit.



### March 23, 2005

The Ford Shelby GT500 is introduced at the New York International auto show. It's the first Mustang to wear the Shelby name in 35 years.



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## 1923-2012 (Carroll Shelby)

In the history of our company, there are a handful of men who have stamped their imprint on the heart and soul of what we do at Ford racing, and Carroll Shelby is definitely one of them.

#### **James Allison, Ford Racing director**

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He was a very fine man. He was honest, he had integrity, he worked very hard, and he was driven. Despite his heart and other health issues, he had the will and the fire to do things others couldn't. He made his mark, he left his footprint. He will be missed.

### Andy Granatelli, former CEO, STP, and industry icon

Carroll Shelby was a giant in the motorsport industry and the automobile industry overall. Known primarily as an innovative automotive designer, he started building his legacy has an outstanding driver. Along the way, his name became iconic. On a personal level he was simply a good friend to so many of us.

### Mike Helton, president, NASCAR

My personal experience with him was on the GT program, and I think that'll be the lasting impact for Carroll. I mean obviously it's a tremendous legacy, but for us at that SVT team, he mentored so many guys. Hau Thai-Tang for example, our VP of engineering, worked closely with him—the whole Mustang team worked so closely with him—it's a tremendous loss to us. Certainly one of the things that we have in our mind is continuing his legacy, to make sure he'll always be proud of those types of products that have his name on them.

# Raj Nair, group vice president, Global Product Development Ford Motor Company

We got along great, and I learned a ton from Carroll—how to get sponsors, how to take care of sponsors, PR. I loved PR and marketing, and he was very strong at it. I really enjoyed racing for Carroll because he was a race driver and he ran the team more like a driver would run it. and he could win.

### **Bob Bondurant, race car driver**

If Carroll really liked you, he called you, "Dad." Maybe that was a Texas thing, or just a Shelby thing, I never knew for sure. But it was a badge of honor to have him call you that. Every couple of weeks, Carroll would check in with me at *Motor Trend*. The calls would always start out the same way: "Tune, it's Shelby. How ya doin', Dad?" And when he hung up it was almost always with a, "Love you, Dad." Love you too, Carroll.

C. Van Tune, former editor-in chief, *Motor Trend*, and former PR spokesperson for Shelby

Even better than being at the track with Carroll was hearing him talk about his life. I can recall several times just listening in awe to Carroll talk about his highs and lows and how his path crossed so many other great drivers and industry leaders again and again. On more than one occasion, I was rapt by hearing about his life experiences, his sense of humor and when he was just being Carroll. He was a legendary race car driver and a legendary storyteller, and the industry and Ford are better off for knowing him for so many years."

Mark Fields, Exec, VP, Ford Motor Co.; president, The Americas



Carroll Shelby was an automotive visionary and leader. His West Texas down-home bib-overall style had a huge emotional impact on me, and when he launched his now-legendary Ford-powered Cobra team, I found myself a very willing volunteer to lend my driving ability to his quest to take on the established European teams on their home turf. As part of Shelby American, we managed to win some tremendous races together. Then we won the crown jewel: the

1967 Le Mans 24 Hour Race with the Ford Mark IV. His leadership was very unconventional and more powerful than either his friends or competitors ever imagined.

### Dan Gurney, legendary race car driver and industry icon

We are all deeply saddened and feel a tremendous sense of loss for Carroll's family, ourselves, and the entire automotive industry. There has been no one like Carroll Shelby and never will be. However, we promised Carroll we would carry on, and he put the team, the products, and the vision in place to do just that.

### Joe Conway, president, Carroll Shelby International

We've lost a friend and an American original who, quoting his first wife, Jeanne, could sell anybody "white blackbirds," a man you could count on when needed, who had the marketing skills of P.T. Barnum with just a touch Billie Sol Estes thrown into the mix.

Years ago, while visiting him in his office in Gardena, I spotted a sign over his desk. It read, "Will those who say it can't be done please get out of the way of those of us who are doing it." Classic Shelby.

Bill Warner, founder and chairman,
Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance

On the 50th anniversary of the original Shelby

rolls out the Shelby 1000 at the 2012 New York

event. With an astonishing 950 hp, the Shelby

tribulations, and triumphs of a company and a

man dedicated to building some of the greatest

1000 is a culmination of 50 years of the trials,

Cobra's 1962 New York auto show debut, Shelby

April 5, 2012

performing cars of all time.



# May 10, 2012

Carroll Hall Shelby passes away at Baylor Hospital in Dallas at the age of 89.

### April 2, 2008

Shelby is sued by customers of Unique Performance, a manufacturer of GT500E and other continuation cars, after Unique fails to deliver cars and is shut down for alleged title washing. Shelby tells *Mustang Monthly,* "I never accepted a dime for any of these cars until they were delivered to the customer."

### December 2008

Shelby American sues Factory Five Racing again, alleging Factory Five's Type 65 Coupe bore too much resemblance to Shelby's Daytona Coupe.



