

Obituary:



(fenley collection)

Gary Ford **1936 - 2020**

Long time VSCCA icon Gary Ford passed away on the 8th of December from complications of the COVID plague. He was 84 years old.

Gary and his wife, Charlie (*Virginia, actually*) had been involved in the VSCCA from early days and he had served on the Board as well as having been the first chairman of the Car Classification Committee. His sense of hospitality and his enthusiasm knew no bounds. He could usually be found working on a sporting car of exceptional rarity and even more exceptional interest. His work product was always of the highest quality and historic accuracy. The photos published with these memories are some examples of the breadth of his enthusiasm.

With the loss of Gary Ford another link to the earlier days of the club is gone. He shall be missed.

Those who might like to memorialize Gary are encouraged to consider donating to the International Motor Racing Research Center in Watkins Glen, or to a dog rescue organization, or a charity of your passion.

Requiescat in Pace.

jpd

Gary touched so much of this hobby and so many people that we offer herewith some comment from two who were close to him, VSCCA Secretary Scott Fenley, and long time VSCCA Honorary Member and Patron of the HRG Association, Ian Dussek.

From Scott Fenley:

I realize that many have already heard that Gary Ford passed away Tuesday, the 8th of December from complications due to COVID. It's important, though, to remember him in these pages.

There will be no service at this time but we will organize something in Gary and Charlie's memory when the weather and global pandemics allow.

It's well known that my friendship with Gary brought me to the VSCCA and, consequently, to the board. I have yet to look at the records to see exactly when Gary joined the VSCCA but I believe it was in the late 1960's. (1969) At the time he and Charlie were living in Chicago and would drive east to events; more than once their HRG, "Green."



At the finale a couple of years ago with Scott Fenley. (hyman)

I first met Gary sometime around 1984 when he was restoring the Lotus 12 in one of the attached photos. I believe that car now resides in the Barber Motorsports Park Museum. He and my dad had common acquaintances through Moore Products Co., where Gary spent his entire career in sales and where my dad was doing development engineering in the 60's and early 70's. Dad left Moore the year I was born, '73, and acquired a tool and die shop (ie, machine shop) in Philadelphia. Gary had my dad reverse engineer and remake the "Chapman" strut hubs for the rear suspension as the car-cass didn't have any when Gary found the car on Long Island.

For some reason Gary took a liking to the little 12 year old redhead who was probably sweeping floors and I starting helping him with cars that he kept at his little farm house in Pipersville and some over in derelict storage shed