

MODEL A FORD HALL OF FAME



Model A Museum
Gilmore Car Museum Campus
Hickory Corners, Michigan



Welcome to the Model A Ford Hall of Fame



The Hall of Fame exists to recognize the people who developed, produced, sold and maintained the Model A Ford vehicles. It also recognizes the many people who developed supporting and derivative tools, accessories and machinery; authored and published articles, magazines and books; and organized and led national organizations devoted to the Model A Ford.

The Hall of Fame is located inside the Model A Ford Museum. It is an evolving element within the museum and is expected to grow in size and importance with each new induction ceremony.

31st INDUCTEE



Merle E. Smith
Inducted 2022

The Model A hobby owes a great deal to Merle E. Smith. He bought his first Model A at the age of 17 and maintained his interest in these captivating cars until his death in 1989 at the age of 77. It might just be a coincidence that he found automobiles so fascinating, but he then spent 30 years as a master automotive mechanic.

Along the way, Merle joined the Model A Ford Club of America in 1961 and participated in three MAFCA chapters in Southern California. He was a leader in those chapters until he recognized the opportunity to take a leadership role on the national MAFCA Board of Directors, serving for 12 years. In 1967 Merle was elected President of MAFCA. During his tenure on the Board, he served in every office available.

In 1979, Merle, as Technical Director, worked with MAFCA President Don Schade to write most of the original judging standards. He also authored numerous technical articles for *The Restorer* over the years. He became known as the national expert on Model A commercial vehicles and was consulted by people all around the country with questions about those special cars and trucks. He was such a prolific contributor to the hobby that he was awarded one of the first MAFCA Life Memberships in 1978. There had been only seven such awards before his. It is the highest honor MAFCA can bestow on one of its members.

The Merle Smith Award promoting youth involvement at the MAFCA National Conventions has been established to assure the continuation of the ideals Merle Smith endeavored to promote, that all family members can enjoy the Model A Ford.

32nd INDUCTEE



Arthur F. Callan

Inducted 2022

Arthur F. Callan, past Executive Director of the Model A Ford Foundation, Incorporated was born on November 2, 1930 in Massachusetts. He spent his early life in Medford, Massachusetts, served in the US Army and later worked in the lobster industry. He graduated from Northeastern University and later married Patricia Donnelly and resided in Newton, MA.

When he was about 50 years old he developed an interest in Model A Ford cars. In 1987 he joined the Minuteman Model A Club and began serving almost immediately as Secretary and Editor of the OilLeak club newsletter. Art served in both those positions from 1987 through 1994. He owned several different Model A body styles over the years. He used his Phaeton to deliver Meals On Wheels to older citizens near his Massachusetts home. Art continued to be very active in the Minuteman Model A Club in the Boston area, serving as President in 1996. In the 1990s he was elected as a Trustee of the Model A Ford Foundation, Inc. (MAFFI) and was appointed as Membership Chairman. While continuing to do that job he agreed to also take on the role of Executive Director of the Foundation and manage the day-to-day operations. For many years he attended both national meets of the Model A Ford Club of America (MAFCA) and the Model A Ford Restorers Club (MARC), setting up MAFFI displays and manning an information table while enrolling new members. Although it was a non-paying job, it required several hours every day, year round doing mail processing, banking, and providing guidance to other officers in the Foundation.

When Art became the Executive Director, MAFFI had not yet established a firm goal of creating a dedicated museum for the Model A Ford. Art's work increased the membership and the income of the Foundation and slowly it became possible to think of a Model A Museum. The Trustee group visited several sites (e.g., Kansas City, Auburn, Indiana, and Sacramento, California) and finally settled on the goal of creating a dedicated museum at the Gilmore Car Museum, Hickory Corners, Michigan.

33rd INDUCTEE



Kenneth R. Ehrenhofer
Inducted 2022

Ken Ehrenhofer was born in the mid -1940s when Model A Fords were still being driven daily. While finding an interest in Model A's was not uncommon at the time, Ken's interests here were anything but common. As a young man, driving a Model A from Illinois to California and back with his brother and a few friends cemented Ken's relationship with old Fords, and his love of these cars extended into his adult life. His restoration "barn" at The Forty Horse Farm in Woodstock, Illinois has served as a center for area Model A enthusiasts and has produced numerous fine-point Model A's over the years.

In 2006, following an active role in local Model A club activities, Ken earned a position on the Model A Restorers Club (MARC) Board of Directors, where he was appointed as Director of Membership and Public Relations. Here, he served the Club with exceptional insights and dedication. After exiting the Board in 2010, he continued to be very active in MARC by writing articles for the *Model A News* magazine, creating products to be marketed by the Club, and promoting MARC at the Iola and Hershey Swap Meets. At Hershey, he initiated the MARC Chili Fest – an event attended by hundreds of Model A enthusiasts each year. Ken continued his contributions to MARC through his Club Facebook activities and assuming the MARC Technical Director role. He became the MARC Webmaster and was responsible in setting up the member e-mail blast system still in use today.

In 2014, Ken was again elected to the MARC Board of Directors and continued in his successful role as Director of Membership and Public Relations. His many contributions to the Model A hobby were marked by his receiving the George DeAngelis Literary Award and the prestigious Kenneth G. Brady Award. Ken was a busy man!

Ken applied his photography skills to become the Contributing Photographer for the *Model A News* magazine. As Ken's wife Helen, Editor of the magazine, was facing health issues, Ken stepped in to learn editing software programs to provide the assistance needed to assure this award-winning publication reached Club members on time. In association with the magazine, Ken traveled extensively to photograph Model A's, provide assistance in preparing magazine articles and promoting MARC.

Ken has also made significant contributions of his time, expertise and energy to the Model A Ford Foundation, Inc. (MAFFI). His 1924 Model T Ford has been on display at MAFFI's Model A Ford Museum, and he teamed up to build the "start-and-hear-run" Model A display at the Museum. Ken is currently serving as the project manager on an all-volunteer effort to restore a 1931 Model A Passenger Bus. Under Ken's enthusiastic guidance, the goal of this project will be a fully restored bus to be used to transport visitors around the Gilmore Car Campus, site of the Model A Ford Museum.

Very few individuals will ever come close to matching Ken Ehrenhofer's significant contributions to the Model A Restorers Club and the Model A Ford hobby.

34th INDUCTEE



Howard A. Minners
Inducted 2022

Born in September 1931 in Rockville Centre, Long Island, New York, Howard Minners holds a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry from Princeton University, a MD from Yale University School of Medicine and a Master's in Public Health from Harvard University School of Public Health. He is board certified in Aerospace Medicine with a distinguished 10-year career in the Air Force with assignments that included four years as the NASA Flight Surgeon for the Project Mercury and Gemini astronauts. He further served 21 years in the US Public Health Service (USPHS) and for three years as the head of the Office of Research at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. Upon his return to the US, Howard was promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral, Assistant Surgeon General in the USPHS Office of International Health with a subsequent assignment as the Science Advisor to the US Agency for International Development (USAID). He retired from the USPHS in 1987 after 31 years of prominent service. Finally he would now have more time to focus on one of his passions: the Ford Model A.

Howard grew a deep historical interest in the development and era surrounding the Ford Model A. The introduction and advertising campaign for the New Ford caught Howard's attention, inspiring him to collect original era Ford advertisements and sales brochures from all over the world. His extensive international collection of Model A advertisements and sales brochures is now among the largest in the world. To share his knowledge, Howard formed the "Model A Ad Collectors Region" of the Model A Restorers Club (MARC) and the "Model A Ad Collectors Chapter" of the Model A Ford Club of America (MAFCA) and published his quarterly newsletter, *Model A Ad Collectors*.

He and his wife Gretchen's meticulous restoration of their 1930 Cabriolet resulted in awards of a MARC of Excellence, a MAFCA Award of Excellence, as well as a Henry Award. Howard became a Master Model A Judge with an area of expertise in upholstery. Howard and his wife spent years researching and documenting the correct original upholstery for the Ford Model A. To share with fellow collectors what he had learned, he joined what would become The Model A Ford Foundation, Inc. (MAFFI) Upholstery Project. Howard and his wife spearheaded the Upholstery Project's research by collecting original upholstery samples from members of the Model A community and, so that all members could benefit from his research, he and his team compiled the material in binders containing samples of both original upholstery material and replacement material. One of those binders is now available for research at the Model A Ford Museum in The Gilmore Car Museum, Hickory Corners, Michigan, with the other two distributed to the two national Model A clubs.

In 1995, Howard became the President of MAFFI and, during two terms as president, he led The Foundation through a period of significant growth. Under his leadership and guidance, Howard organized a team of volunteers over several years to document and index the thousands of mechanical engineering drawings, which are stored in boxes in the bowels of the Benson Ford Research Center of the Henry Ford. Because of this new, organized access to the original Ford

parts drawings, reproduction parts manufacturers now are able to make more accurate replacement parts for our Model A's.

In 2009, when MAFFI was looking for a location for its new museum, Howard led the search for its new museum site. One year later, a memorandum of understanding was signed with The Gilmore Car Museum. At the time, Howard was also a member of the museum building selection committee. It was through his research in his personal Ford literature archives that he proposed what would later be selected as the general design of The Model A Museum building.

Howard has been a long and dedicated Trustee of MAFFI and remains an active member of the MAFFI Investment Committee, insuring that the memberships' funds continue to grow and will be able to sustain the Museum's operations in perpetuity.

Howard has always had a strong connection to the Model A hobby. Early in his service to his local Model A club (the George Washington Chapter / Mount Vernon Region) Howard was entrusted to be the club's newsletter editor. Here, he transformed it into a valuable, relevant and focused publication which ultimately was awarded the coveted MARC Best Newsletter Award. He also served on the local club Board of Directors as well as the National Liaison to both National Model A clubs.

Howard was not only an active leader in his local club, and MAFFI, but he also passionately contributed to both MAFCA) and MARC and served for four years as National Secretary of MARC. While not busy judging cars, or hosting seminars at annual Model A National or Membership Meets, Howard could usually be found playing the piano, or ukulele, as background music for the era fashion shows or awards banquets. For his lifetime achievements, extraordinary service and significant contributions to the Model A hobby, in 2001 he was awarded MARC's highest honor: The Ken Brady Award.

With his significant contributions to the Model A community, Howard is most deserving of a place of honor in the Model A Ford Hall of Fame.