GT500 Is a Tribute to Aftermarket Pioneer

Friends of Carroll Shelby, including Ford Motor Co., Shelby American, Ford Racing and many others have built a unique 2013 Shelby GT500 Cobra as a tribute to the late Carroll Shelby.

Ford is also announcing a renamed road at its Product Development Center in Dearborn, Mich., as a tribute to Shelby as well.

Cobra has been the consistent performance label as Shelby worked with Ford for most of the last 60 years, and Shelby was instrumental in the creation of Ford performance vehicles including Cobras, the GT40 and Mustangs since the mid-1960s.

The unique tribute car was unveiled by Ford Motor Co. board member Edsel Ford II, Ford's group vice president for Sales and Marketing Jim Farley, and Shelby American President John Luft at last month's Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion, where Cobra is the marque of show for 2012.

"Even at 89 years of age, Carroll was an inspiration to us all," said Farley. "This year marks the 50th anniversary of the original Shelbv Cobra. The one-off car we have created represents the very idea he had about making the 2013 Shelby GT500 into a true Cobra."

Using the 662-horsepower 2013 Shelby GT500 as a foundation, "Friends of Carroll" created the one-of-a-kind 2013 Shelby GT500 Cobra wide-body Mustang that now generates more than 850 horsepower with the help of a Ford Racing 4.0-liter Whipple supercharger.

Putting that much power to the ground requires plenty of traction, so the 13-inch-wide rear wheels are wrapped in massive 345-section high-performance tires for extra grip.

Ford Motor Co. teamed up with way at the end of its tour – a way



2013 Shelby GT500 Cobra, a tribute car to the late Carroll Shelby.

Shelby American for several key components on the Carroll Shelby tribute car. Shelby American provided a specially designed hood, new rear wide-body kit, Shelby Wilwood brakes and new 20x13inch rear and 20x10-inch front wheels. The bodywork is finished in the same Guardsman Blue with Wimbledon White stripes that graced so many of the Cobra roadsters built in the 1960s.

"Carroll Shelby changed the performance world forever," said Luft. "And while he was proud of Shelby American's achievements, Carroll was far more interested in the next car we would build. You will find the spirit and influence of Carroll Shelby in every future vehicle we build, just as you'll find it in the rear wide-body kit and hood integrated into the 2013 Shelby GT500 Cobra."

"You might also know that Carroll was a philanthropist, noted supporting causes moved him," added Farley.

"In that spirit, this car will be taken on tour around the country, and hopefully will be used in a special Carroll would appreciate."

Before the 2013 Shelby GT500 Cobra hit the road, it was shown at the Ford display in the expo area at the Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion recently.

For more than half a century, Carroll Shelby inspired designers and engineers throughout the extended Ford family. As a teenager, Edsel Ford II worked for Shelby doing a variety of jobs, including cleaning transmission parts.

Countless engineers crossed paths with Shelby over the years, from those who crafted the original GT40 to those working on the 2013 Shelby GT500. Up until his death, Carroll Shelby remained committed to developing great performance cars. Even at the age of 88, he spent more than five hours driving the most powerful production Mustang ever during engineering validation sessions at Sebring and the Arizona Proving Grounds in late 2011.

During and after test sessions, Carroll spent hours discussing with engineers what he liked and what needed improvement.

Aftermarket insiders say no

GM Small Block Spelled Success For Corvette

DETROIT - For 58 of its 60 years, the Chevrolet Corvette has been powered by the legendary Chevrolet V-8 engine. advancements Technological have increased output threefold - from 195 hp in 1955 to 638 hp today - as well as reliability, refinement and efficiency.

However, the fundamental architecture of the Chevrolet "Small Block" remains the same today as it was in 1955: a 90-degree V-8, with overhead valves actuated by pushrods, and a 4.4inch on-center bore spacing.

"The brilliance of the Chevrolet V-8 is its elegant, efficient design," said Jordan Lee, global chief engineer for Small Block Engines. "The Chevy V-8 has fewer reciprocating parts, and is very efficient and has one of the best power-to-weight ratios of any engine family in the industry. The design is incredibly compact, enabling the Corvette's signature sleek profile and low hood line."

Despite a sporty appearance, the early Corvettes' performance didn't match their good looks. The car launched in 1953 with the "Blue Flame" inline six-cylinder engine and a two-speed automatic transmission - not exactly the stuff on which to build a sports car legend. That changed in 1955, when the new smallblock V-8 engine became available and was ordered by 99 percent of Corvette buyers.

Not only did the new and significantly more powerful engine breathe new life into the Corvette's driving experience, it could be linked to a three-speed manual transmission that gave the driver an even greater connection to the car. The result



The ZR1's LS9 supercharged 6.2L.

made the Corvette a proper sports car, and enthusiasts responded. Sales nearly doubled from 1954 and by the end of the decade, they nearly tripled.

Immediately after the V-8 was introduced, the small-block began a steady march upward in displacement, power and technological advancement.

The Corvette's first 4.3L (265 cu. in.) small-block engine in 1955 produced up to 195 hp with an optional four-barrel carburetor. Today, the LS9 6.2L (376 cu. in.) supercharged small-block in the Corvette ZR1 is rated at 638 hp (476 kW), delivering about 230 percent more power than the original small-block engine from only 42 percent greater displace-

Todav's small-block is also remarkably fuel efficient. For example, the 430-horsepower (476 kW) LS3 version of the Gen-IV small-block helps the 2013 Corvette accelerate fast.





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