

The Buick Heritage Alliance was organized 20 years ago in June 2004 to preserve and celebrate the rich heritage of Buick Automobiles and the people who made them.

To that end, we are using the 2024 BCA National Meet to honor Charles A. Chayne. He was Buick's Chief Engineer from 1936 to 1951 and GM's Vice President of Engineering from 1952 to 1963. He was responsible for many innovations that improved not only Buicks, but all GM makes and other brands as well.

He was also actively involved during the infancy of the collector car hobby in the 1930s and continuing through the mid-twentieth century when it blossomed.

To tell you about Mr. Chayne, I am pleased to introduce

Kevin M. Kirbitz, Director – Heritage Operations. General Motors Heritage Center, General Motors Archives, and Durant-Dort Factory One. He is also the Current President of the Society of Automotive Historians and a BHA Director

Thank you, Kevin, for that excellent presentation.

Now, I ask Todd Slisher, Executive Director of the Sloan Museum of Discovery, to join me on the stage. While Todd makes his way to the stage, let tell you briefly about the Buick Heritage Alliance Award.

This award is presented annually to recognize an individual's notable accomplishment that fulfills the BHA's purpose.

The BHA maintains a 5 feet tall permanent trophy that includes a casting replicating the Manufacturer's Trophy issued in the 1971 BCA National Meet. It includes for 100 plates on which are inscribed each winner's name, year of award, and succinct statement describing the reason for the Award.

Each award winner receives a plaque that includes the same bronze cast replica and a plate inscribed with the winner's name, year of award, and succinct statement describing the reason for the Award.

For 2024 the BHA is presenting the BHA Award posthumously to

**CHARLES A. CHAYNE**

For significant contributions to the engineering of Buick automobiles from 1936 to 1951 and the preservation of Buick automobiles and the company's heritage.

We trust this plaque will enhance the Sloan's display of the XP-300, the Buick Bug and the other cars that Mr. Chayne contributed to the Sloan Museum when it first opened in 1966

The BHA Board decided that we also needed to recognize another person who is still with us; who has been working for an extended time to preserve and celebrate Buick's rich heritage; and who has more years to continue this work.

The person we selected began his career 50 years ago by getting a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of New Hampshire in 1976. He followed that with a Master of Regional Planning Degree from Cornell University in 1981.

He then spent the next 22 years as a City Planning/Community Development Director working for communities in Massachusetts and Texas applying his college education.

In his mid-forties, he opted for a major career change. He enrolled in McPherson College's Auto Restoration Technology and obtained his Associate Degree in 2005. He then opened United Motors Garage, Bonham, Texas, an automotive restoration shop specializing in pre-1980 American automobiles.

If you don't know by now, I will tell you that our other BHA Award winner for 2024 is Pete Phillips who has served as editor and writer for *The Buick Bugle* since 2005.

Pete please join me on stage.

I am pleased to present the BHA Award to PETER H. PHILLIPS

For 20 years of journalism excellence and achievement as editor of the *Buick Bugle*, the official publication of the Buick Club of America.