

Buick Heritage Alliance Award

BHA announces 2023 recipient of its prestigious service award

By David M. Landow, Director and Past President (2017-2019) Buick Heritage Alliance

In February 2004, almost two decades ago, seven Buick enthusiasts gathered in Detroit to share their common vision of establishing a nonprofit organization that would protect and preserve the heritage of Buick. On that notable day, they formed the Buick Heritage Alliance (BHA).

Now in its 19th year of preserving and making historically significant Buick literature, technical manuals, and documents available to all, the BHA is led by nine directors and a 14-member board of governors. The growth of the BHA, now one of the world's largest single-marque automobile documents repositories, is unprecedented. Its archive is housed at the technically advanced AACA Library & Research Center in Hershey, Pennsylvania, and is carefully curated under the supervision of the BHA's full-time professional librarian.

To acknowledge those who have made substantial contributions to the preservation of Buick heritage, the BHA created the Buick Heritage Alliance Award in 2011. Presented to only one recipient annually, the sensational BHA trophy that commemorates the award displays up to 100 names and now bears the names of its first 11 recipients.

The BHA is proud to announce this year's recipient of the Buick Heritage Alliance Award. Glenn D. Cecchine was chosen "For the creation, growth, and perpetuation of CARS, Inc., and its 50 years of support and authentic parts for restoring 1935 to 1987 Buicks."

For Glenn D. Cecchine, acquiring, manufacturing, and selling Buick parts has been a life-long passion, from which the entire Buick community has greatly benefitted since the early 1980s. Today, CARS has eight full-time employees, offers five different Buick catalogs, and ships Buick parts worldwide daily. The company's inventory consists of more than 500,000 parts and occupies more



The BHA trophy incorporates elements of Buick's past, including northern white ash at its base in tribute to the wood body structures of early Buicks, and flowing dual arches in tribute to Buick styling excellence. A bronze casting that is an exact replica of the 1920s Buick script logo that adorned the Manufacturer's Trophy (awarded by Buick Motor Division management at the 1971 through 1974 BCA national meets) tops off the BHA trophy, on which each winner's name and accomplishment are permanently inscribed. Each winner also receives a shadow box award incorporating a bronze casting identical to that which tops the trophy.



Glenn D. Cecchine doing what he loves best: attending a parts swap meet.

than 100,000 square feet at various locations. CARS now offers hundreds of authentic reproduction parts for Buick from 1935 to 1987.

Glenn's son, Logan, is steadily taking over the helm, ensuring that CARS thrives under a second-generation of leadership, thereby creating time for his father to return to what originally fueled the creation of CARS: the sale of NOS Buick parts. During the 1990s, when CARS began



Glenn Cecchine's young son, Logan, in 1997, with the car that started it all. In 1951, Glenn's birth year, his grandparents purchased a 1951 Buick Super. As a youngster, Glenn reveled in cleaning, washing, and waxing the Buick. While in college, after the car had been stored in a garage for many years, Glenn eagerly took his grandfather up on an offer for Glenn to purchase it. Glenn then joined the BCA (member #4978) and began to search for parts by subscribing to all of the major old car magazines, such as Hemmings Motor News, Old Cars Weekly, and Cars & Parts. A passion for collecting Buick parts ensued, and the business that today serves antique Buick owners worldwide was launched.



Glenn with his son, Logan, who now manages CARS, Inc.

reproducing hard-to-find parts, its NOS parts business was placed on the back burner. CARS owns thousands of NOS Buick parts that are stored in trailers and barns that are waiting to be identified, inventoried, and sold to those who need them, a task which Glenn looks forward to now that Logan has entered the business.

Glenn continues to remain enthusiastic about answering customers' questions, developing new reproduction parts, offering technical advice, attending shows, and visiting CARS to check-in on its operations. Although Glenn says he is semi-retired, he also says he will never leave the company entirely because he wants it to remain a family business, adding, "I still love what I do and still believe that Buick people are by far some of the nicest and most down to earth people I have ever met." The BHA concurs and congratulates Glenn on his successful career faithfully serving the entire Buick community. 