

NCM MAY NEWSLETTER

Congratulations to Circle City Corvettes members at the NCM bash-Presenting a Beach Caravan auction check for \$6,325 !!



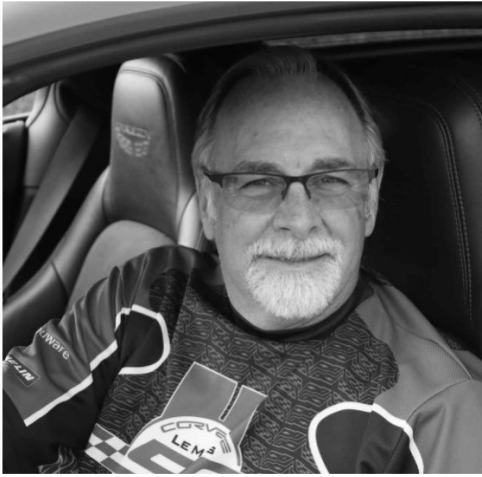
Four Corvette Icons Named to the 2026 Corvette Hall of Fame Class

Bowling Green, KY (April 24, 2026) – The Corvette Hall of Fame proudly announces its 2026 class of members-elect, who will be formally inducted during a ceremony on Saturday, September 5, 2026, as part of the National Corvette Museum's 32nd Anniversary Celebration.

Established in 1998 by the National Corvette Museum, the Corvette Hall of Fame stands as the highest honor in the Corvette community. For 28 years, it has recognized trailblazers whose passion, integrity, and accomplishments have shaped the history of America's Sports Car.

Each year, inductees are selected from three categories: Racing, GM-Chevrolet, and Enthusiast. The 2026 Corvette Hall of Fame class includes:

GM-Chevrolet – Kirk Bennion & Harlan Charles, Shaping the Legacy of Corvette



Kirk Bennion and Harlan Charles were two of the most recognizable faces on the Corvette team during their careers at General Motors. Bennion was a visionary designer who translated bold concepts into iconic shapes. Charles brought deep insight into what Corvette customers wanted, turning that feedback into real-world features and options.

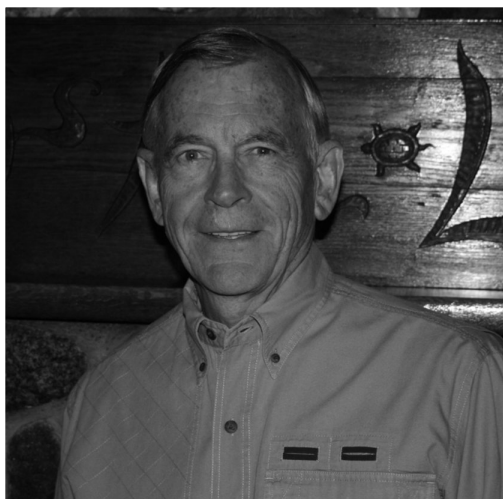
Their roles often placed them side by side in product reveals, interviews, and enthusiast events, where they communicated Corvette's evolution to the world.

Spanning decades and multiple GM brands, both Bennion and Charles found their most significant achievements with Corvette. Bennion began his GM career working on the Pontiac Fiero before joining Chevrolet's Studio 3 in 1987. Charles started as Product Manager for the Oldsmobile Intrigue and joined the Corvette team in 2001. While both contributed to the development of the fifth, sixth, and seventh generations, their influence became most visible with the eighth-generation Corvette.

Bennion ensured the eighth-generation Corvette's design balanced exotic styling with functional performance on the street and track. Charles pushed for features based on customer feedback, including performance upgrades and increased personalization options that reflected Corvette's heritage.

They both shared a passion for special edition Corvettes and supported their development to help strengthen the connection between the brand and its community. Although their responsibilities were different, Bennion and Charles often worked toward a common purpose. Their collaboration earned respect inside GM and helped build trust among Corvette fans. Their time with the Corvette team left a lasting impact on the car and the people who love it.

Racing – John Middlebrook, General Motors Executive



John Middlebrook

John Middlebrook enjoyed a distinguished career at General Motors that spanned nearly 50 years. He rose to become the company's Vice President of Global Sales, Service, and Marketing. A native of Lansing, Michigan, Middlebrook began his career with GM in 1959 at Oldsmobile. Eight years later, he moved to Pontiac as a sales analyst and eventually became Pontiac's General Manager by the late 1980s. His expertise in sales and marketing earned him his first vice president role at GM in 1987.

Middlebrook made his most significant contributions to the Corvette as General Manager of Chevrolet, a position he began in 1996. He often referred to the Corvette as Chevrolet's flagship vehicle and saw it as a reflection of the brand's engineering and design leadership. He supported Herb Fishel and Doug Fehan in creating Corvette's factory-backed racing program in partnership with Pratt & Miller. He also played a key role in strengthening the connection between Corvette and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, helping secure Corvette's position as a frequent pace car for the Indianapolis 500.

When Middlebrook became a vice president overseeing all GM brands in 2004, he continued to support Chevrolet's motorsports efforts, including the growing success of Corvette Racing. He retired from GM in 2008. Colleagues across the company and the racing world recognized him as a leader who helped shape both the automotive industry and Corvette's legacy in motorsports.

Enthusiast – James Schefter, Author of *All Corvettes Are Red*



James Schefter

James Schefter is best known for his books, articles, and other works that explore the intersection of technology, industry, and American culture. He first gained national attention as a reporter for Time and Life magazines, where he covered the Apollo space program. Those experiences led him to write *The Race: The Uncensored Story of How America Beat Russia to the Moon*.

In the Corvette world, Schefter is most recognized for authoring *All Corvettes Are Red: Inside the Rebirth of an American Legend*. The book follows the development of the fifth-generation Corvette, offering a detailed look at how the car was designed, tested, and produced. It also explores the corporate challenges General Motors faced in the early 1990s and how a dedicated group within the company pushed to create a bold new version of America's Sports Car under difficult conditions.

Schefter was granted eight years of rare access inside GM, and his research uncovered how individual personalities and internal processes shaped the fifth-generation Corvette. His work provided readers with a behind-the-scenes view of a major American automotive program.

The book and its research made Schefter a well-known figure in the Corvette community. He embraced that recognition and enjoyed driving his fifth-generation Corvette to Corvette shows and enthusiast events. Although he passed away in 2001, his work remains popular among Corvette fans for the insight it offers into GM's history and the passion behind the car's development.

About the Corvette Hall of Fame

Founded by the National Corvette Museum in 1998, 2026 marks the 28th anniversary of the esteemed award. Created to recognize the most influential individuals in the history of the Corvette and honor their achievements, nominees are selected by an anonymous panel of Corvette experts. A final group of 100 Corvette professionals makes up the Hall of Fame voting panel.

Corvette Hall of Fame inductees are featured in the National Corvette Museum Skydome, recognizing their enduring legacy to America's Sports Car. The expanded and reimagined Corvette Hall of Fame now shines a brighter spotlight on the incredible individuals who've shaped the Corvette legacy. This revitalized space celebrates the passion, innovation, and contributions of Hall of Fame members in a way that is bigger and better than ever.



Celebrate The End of School With \$10 Student Admission

All May, elementary through high school students can visit the Museum for just \$10 with on-site ticket purchase. Each student also receives a free Corvette poster. It's the perfect way to celebrate the end of the school year and inspire young minds with the history and innovation of America's Sports Car.

[Plan Your Visit>](#)



The 1983 Corvette *You Can't Find Anywhere Else*

In the early 80s, Corvette was at a crossroads. Tasked with reclaiming its title as a performance leader, Chief Engineer Dave McLellan packed the pre-production 1983 models with cutting-edge tech, including the uniframe chassis, computer-controlled LED display, and lightweight alloys. Time ran out for validation, and Chevrolet made the bold choice to bypass the 1983 designation to focus on the 1984 launch. The tech and performance that fueled the 1983 paved the way for the Corvette's futuristic 1984 debut.

Orders were given to destroy all forty-three prototypes, but one miraculously survived. Visit us to see the only 1983 Corvette in the world, now on display in the Skydome.

[Learn More >](#)

Upcoming Events



**2026 R8C Museum Delivery
Customer Reunion**
June 25-27, 2026

Online registration available

[Register Now](#)



**National Corvette
Museum 32nd
Anniversary**
September 3-5, 2026

[Registration Opens Soon](#)



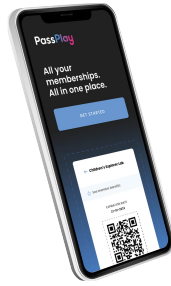
2026 Museum in Motion: New York
September 24-28, 2026

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Contact membership@corvettemuseum.org

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