



Legends Ledger July 2026

July Meeting Speaker

At our July 11 meeting at BJ's Brewhouse in Addison, a Patriot PAWS Service Dogs trainer and dog will present a program about this wonderful local organization. We will present a donation raised through our participation in the Lewisville Christmas Parade, sales at Pate Swap Meet, and the June raffle for NCM membership donated by Craig & Sharon Conde.

Corvette Legends of Texas had been a supporter of Patriot PAWS for many years. Our members have raised money through Silent Auctions, by staffing booths at Good-Guys, Pate Swap Meet and other events to educate the public and collect donations. During COVID we even printed and sold a Corvette calendar to raise funds.

Pictured at the right: In 2017 we donated \$5,000 to name our first dog, Axle! Our second dog was named Vette.

Patriot PAWS Mission--The mission of Patriot PAWS is to train and provide Service Dogs of the highest quality at no cost to disabled American Veterans to help restore their physical and emotional independence.

Every Service Dog we place is trained with one goal in mind—to change a life. And every Veteran we serve reminds us why that mission matters.

Our Story--Patriot PAWS began with a simple belief: those who served our country deserve every chance to live with dignity, purpose, and independence. Too many of our Veterans come home facing battles they never expected to fight—the kind that follows them into civilian life. We saw a way to help.

Since our founding in 2006, we've been training Service Dogs to support Veterans with mobility challenges, Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS), military sexual trauma, and traumatic brain injury (TBI). What started as a small operation has become a full-scale program with university partnerships, a prison-based training system, and a dedicated campus located in Rockwall, Texas.

Rockwall Main Campus--Patriot PAWS has grown from a small store front to a 3.2-acre Training Facility, equipped with state-of-the-art Kennels and Administrative Offices, as well as a Veterinary Clinic on-site.

Legends first Patriot PAWS Dog

Veteran Don Weintraub & Axle

Army Sgt. Weintraub of Texas served in the Infantry and Signal Corps during the Vietnam Era, including 20 months in the Korean DMZ. Service Dog, Axle, was a male Double Doodle who enhanced Don's mobility.



Right when they arrive and are placed with trained Puppy Raisers, each of our Service Dogs will begin working on simple commands, such as sitting and maintaining eye contact. Once they've mastered the basics and received their vaccinations, they'll head to one of our three branch programs to continue their training.

Inmates at corrections facilities earn their way into the trainer programs that also give them a skill.

A Lifetime of Service--Donations help cover the cost of training, veterinary care, and supplies, paving the way for a brighter future for both the dog and the Veteran they'll serve.

From the moment a puppy is born through years of expert training and placement—and throughout its working life—we stand behind both the dog and the Veteran it serves.

Your generosity powers the entire journey: early development and socialization, advanced training in more than 65 life-changing tasks, specialized equipment, lifetime Veteran support, and even free veterinary care and special nutrition when needed. All of this is provided at no cost to the Veteran.

Creating and sustaining one of these life-changing teams requires a base investment of more than \$46,000. Our Scholarship Program bridges that cost, ensuring that the men and women who served our country never have to pay for the independence they've earned.

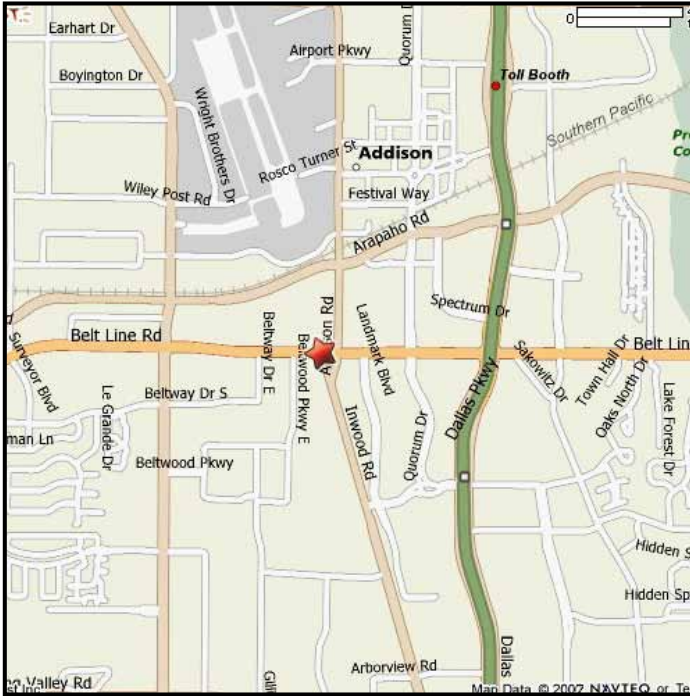
July Meeting

11 am-Sat., July 11

Speaker from
Patriot PAWS Service Dogs

BJ's Brewhouse & Restaurant
4901 Belt Line Rd.,
Dallas (Addison)

Please park in the back of the restaurant.



CORVETTE LEGENDS OF TEXAS OFFICERS

contact info in your club directory

President:..... Tom Hubbert
VP of Operations:..... Jeff Clevenger
VP of Special Events: Steve Parry
Secretary:..... Sharon Conde
Treasurer:.....Kevin Shedden

DIRECTORS

Director of Communications:.....Denise Eckhart
Weekend Wrench Coordinator:.....Mike Kmita
Membership Coordinator:.....Dennis Conte
Newsletter Coordinator:.....Diane Preston

Legends Ledger Newsletter: Published monthly.
Submission deadline is the 15th of the previous month.
Send submissions to cdiane1957@aol.com

Club Web Site: <http://www.vettelegends.com>
Send submissions to: Communications@VetteLegends.com

Meetings-2nd Saturday of every month

If you have a recommendation for a guest speaker to address the club or a new meeting location in the North Dallas Metro Area, please contact Jeff Clevenger.

Membership Info: \$40 for annual membership

Application available on our web site: VetteLegends.com
Send all changes in your address and Corvette ownership to:
Dennis Conte: Dennis.Conte@att.net

Dues are paid annually at a meeting or mailed to:
Corvette Legends of Texas, P.O. Box 260316, Plano, TX 75026-0316

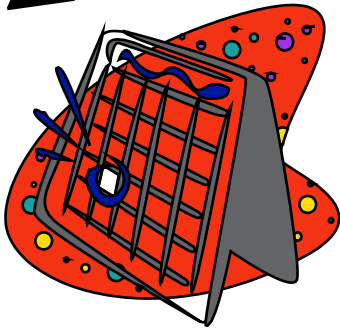
Club
Member
Discount

Legends members get
Fleet Pricing on parts at
Huffines Chevrolet
in
Lewisville



1400 South Stemmons Freeway

2026



*CLoT Club Participation Event

- | | | | |
|------------------|--|-------|-------------------------------------|
| July 8 | Classic Cars & Brown Bags | 11 am | Flower Mound, TX |
| | Bring your own lunch and drinks! Heritage Park , 600 Spinks Rd., Flower Mound, Texas (Between Gerault Rd. & Garden Ridge Blvd.) 3 mi. North of Grapevine Mills Mall | | |
| *July 11 | Legends Meeting | 11 am | BJ's Brewhouse Addison, TX |
| | Patriot PAWS Service Dog demonstration and speaker. | | |
| *Aug 8 | Legends Meeting | 11 am | Spring Creek BBQ Richardson, TX |
| | Speaker: Grey Acuna, Owner of Fortified Film Solutions will be speaking about PPF (XPEL) and Ceramic coating. | | |
| Aug 27-29 | Corvettes at Carslile | | Carslile, PA |
| *Sept 12 | Legends Meeting | 11 am | Big Mike's, 3200 Alma Rd. Plano, TX |
| Sept 17 | Southwest Airlines Show | | Dallas, TX |

Registration: To ensure security on the Southwest Airlines campus, all Classic Cars & Guests **MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED** before the event during normal registration period; **we won't be able to accept on-site registrations.** This event is exclusively for Southwest employees, sponsors, and pre-registered car owners; the Car Show is not open to the general public.
Location: 2702 Love Field Drive, Dallas TX. Please enter the campus from Denton Drive, then proceed to the Security Checkpoint.

- 2-4pm - Driver Arrival,
- 4-7pm - Classic Car Show,
- 4-6:30pm - Live Band,
- 6:30pm - Awards,
- 4-7pm - Food and Drinks.



Cemented in History:

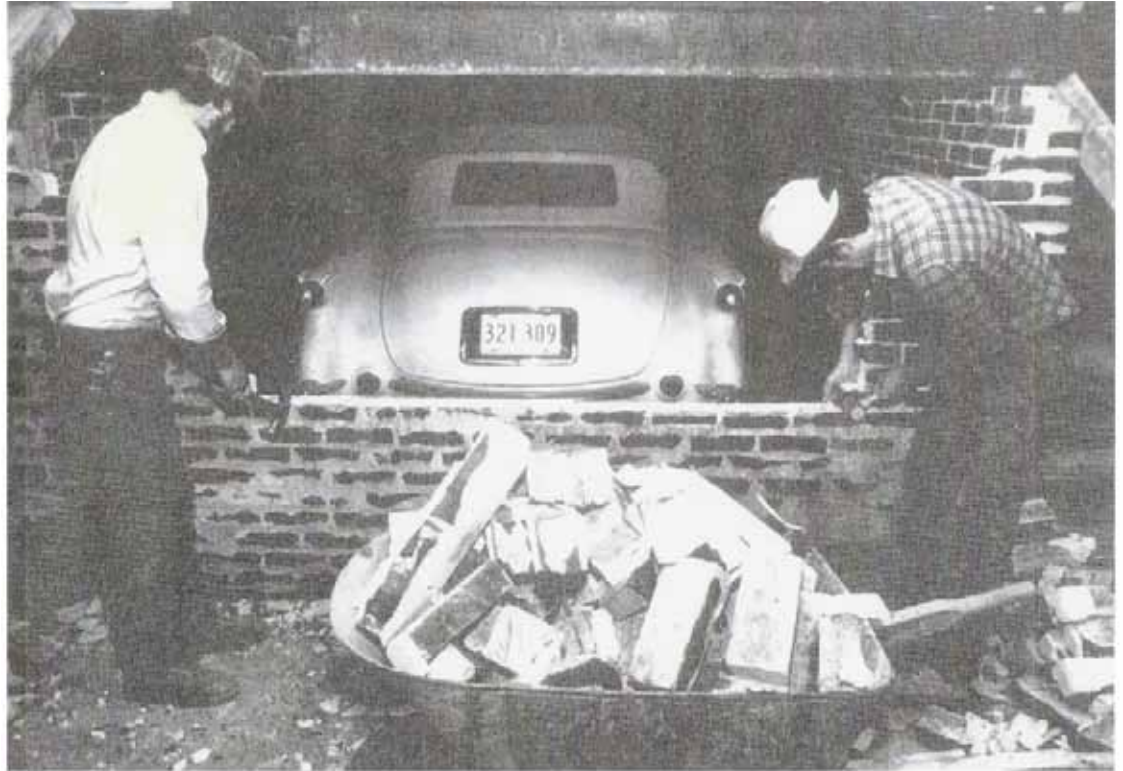
1954 'Entombed' Corvette joins Museum Collection

November 7, 2019

It was 1954 and successful business man, Richard Sampson of Brunswick, Maine had just purchased a brand-new Corvette. After driving it for four years, he wanted to park it somewhere safe. Sampson was constructing new stores for his grocery chain and decided one of them would be the perfect structure to keep his car secure. A tomb was built inside the store – literally around his Corvette. Sampson specified in his will that the car was not to be taken out of the man-made 'time-capsule' until the year 2000. Although Sampson changed his wishes before he passed away in 1969, the car remained entombed for 27 years.

The story of the Corvette was not widely known until the early 1980s when a magazine article was published. In 1986, the building's new owner (who purchased the store in 1982) released the Corvette into the hands of Sampson's daughter Cynthia. Workers disassembled the tomb, brick-by-brick, for a spectacular reveal. Cynthia then took the car to her home in Daytona Beach, Florida where it remained in the middle of her living room for the next ten years. The car has changed hands a few times since then, but still has accumulated only 2,344 miles and remains in unrestored and original condition.

"The donors reached out to see if we would have an interest in the car," said Derek E. Moore, Director of Collections / Curator. "We talked a little about the signifi-



(A2) BRUNSWICK, Maine, Sept. 29 - ENTOMBED CORVETTE - Wesley Irving, left, and Will Irving remove a brick wall to reveal a 1954 Corvette convertible that was entombed for 27 years. The late Richard Sampson sealed the car behind brick walls in 1959, but no one seems to know why. (AP LaserPhoto) jlh20900mbr-Files Record Slug: Corvette Tomb

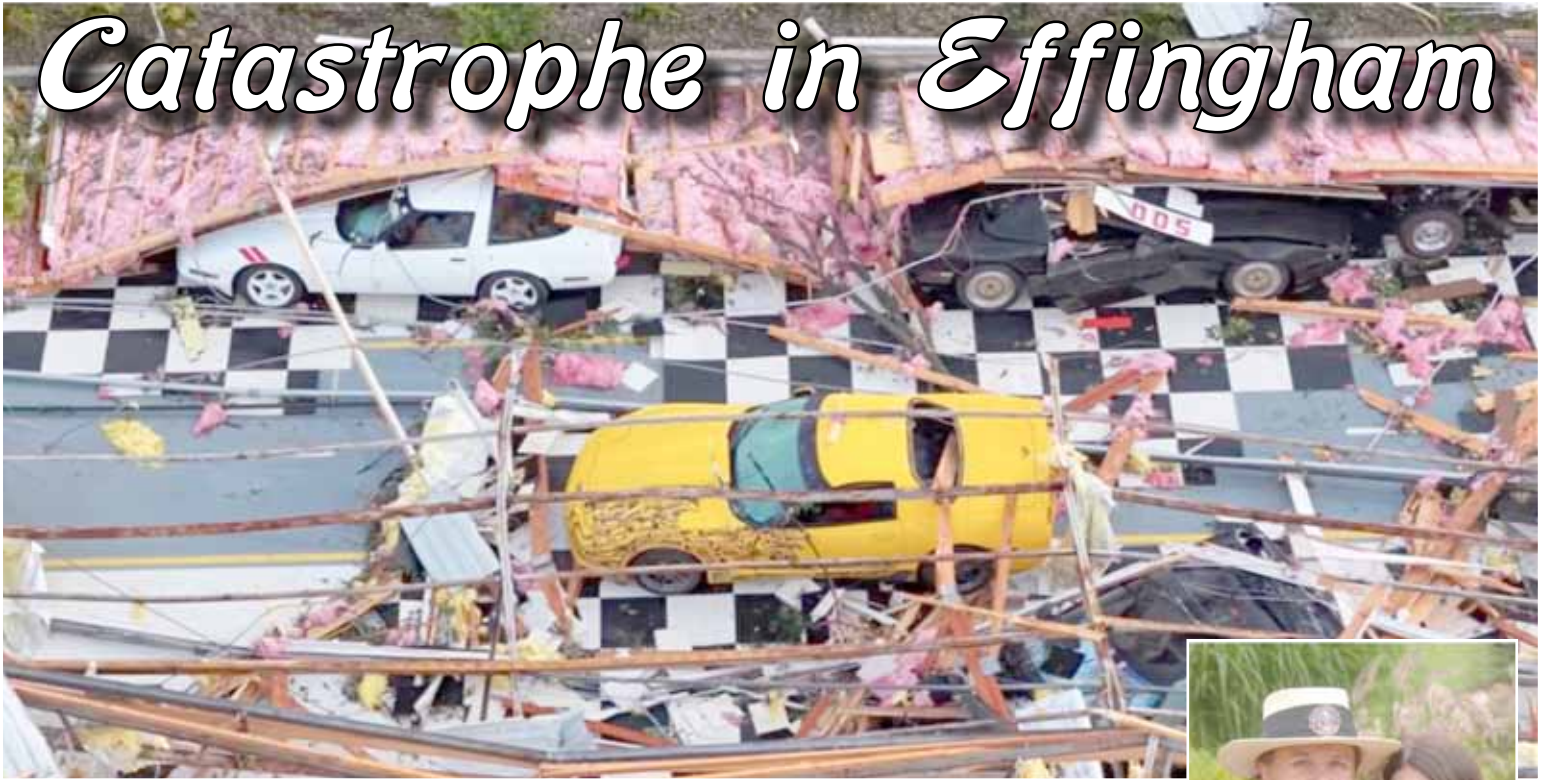
cance of it, as well as keeping it in original condition. We know we want to recreate the tomb in some fashion, a diorama or vignette setting. We're excited to share this unique piece of history!"

The donors, who wish to remain anonymous, donated it to the National Corvette Museum to continue in the preservation of both the car and its amazing (and interesting!) story.

The car is now displayed in a re-created tomb, much like it was once housed in, complete with replica viewing window and single light bulb. The display was made possible thanks to the generosity of Mary and Robin Vann.



Catastrophe in Effingham



Tornado Destroys Mid America Motorworks and Iconic 'MY Garage' Corvette Museum

The automotive enthusiast community is reeling following a devastating tornado that ripped through northern Effingham County, IL leveling the corporate headquarters of Mid America Motorworks and completely destroying the historic MY Garage Museum.

The severe weather event occurred on the evening of Wednesday, June 17, 2026. According to official statements and local emergency reports, the sprawling aftermarket parts complex on North Third Street sat directly in the destructive path of the twister.

Miraculous Safety Amidst Catastrophic Ruin

In a statement released by Mid America Motorworks, leadership confirmed the most critical piece of news: all team members on site are safe, and no injuries were reported on the campus.

The business's founders, Mike and Laurie Yager, were not on the property during the disaster. In a deeply personal update posted to social media, Mike Yager revealed that they were traveling in Italy and received the devastating news from thousands of miles away. Because of their location, the family had no direct access to physical photos of the aftermath and, until days later, were relying on preliminary reports from the ground.

While the preservation of human life remains a miracle, the physical landscape of the iconic "Corvette Mecca" has been completely transformed into a field of rubble.

Half a Century of History Erased

Founded in 1974 by Mike Yager, Mid America Motorworks grew over the course of 52 years to become one of the largest and most influential aftermarket parts and accessories suppliers for the Corvette and classic Volkswagen hobbies.

The crown jewel of the Effingham campus was the MY Garage Museum (MY stands for Mike Yager). Over five decades, the Yager family curated a priceless collection of historically significant Corvettes, rare prototypes, and thousands of pieces of irreplaceable automotive memorabilia. The museum and surrounding campus have been reduced to debris, with officials indicating that the loss is total.

Founder Mike Yager said in an update that "every building is a total loss," including the museum, corporate headquarters, warehouses, and even a vintage 1910 gas station on the property. The storm also appears to have destroyed or severely damaged multiple one-of-a-kind vehicles and historic prototypes. Among the reported losses are the last C4 Corvette ever built and early C5 prototype cars, which enthusiasts say cannot be replaced. "In other words, our entire 52 years in business is gone," Yager shared. Beyond the commercial and automotive losses, the family is mourning the destruction of extensive personal history stored at the complex, including childhood artwork from their children, Michael and Blake, and an original copy of the Illinois Central Railroad's historic corporate minutes.

"This was a museum. This was a place that families came to see cool one-of-a-kind cars," Elizabeth Yager





MID AMERICA--continued from page 4

said. "It's absolutely devastating. You can't replace the last C4 Corvette or the Alpha and Beta cars."

The tornado was part of a severe weather outbreak across the Midwest, with damage reported across multiple counties in Illinois. In Effingham County alone, officials say at least 30 buildings were destroyed and dozens more damaged. Emergency management officials reported the tornado traveled roughly 12 to 15 miles, with the most severe damage stretching across rural areas and into parts of Effingham. Despite the destruction, authorities say there were no fatalities and only a small number of injuries reported.

A Community and Hobby in Shock

As news of the disaster spread across the country, messages of support poured in from the wider automotive world. The National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, Kentucky, which famously survived its own natural disaster when a massive sinkhole opened inside its Skydome in 2014, has historically stood as a symbol of resilience for the hobby. The museum extended their words of resilience to the Yager family in a recent Facebook post: "Our thoughts are with the team at Mid America Motorworks following the devastating tornado damage to their facilities. We're grateful all team members are safe and wish them strength in the days ahead."

The immediate logistical fallout from the storm is already being felt. Due to the complete loss of facilities, management announced the official cancellation of the upcoming Volkswagen Fest, an annual cornerstone event that draws thousands of enthusiasts to the Effingham community every summer.

While the parts giant faces an incredibly steep road to recovery, the company's decades of deep roots in the automotive ecosystem ensure that thousands of loyal enthusiasts stand ready to support them as they begin the monumental task of clearing the debris and looking toward the future.

Mike Yeager arrived back in Effingham on Sunday after the tornado and said, "Since 1979, this has been our ground. Before I made my first stop to walk what is left of Mid America Motorworks and the MYGarage



Legends member Don Eckhart with his 1958 during 2016 Mid America FunFest at the 1910 Gas Station that was destroyed by the tornado.

Museum in Effingham, Illinois, I drove the local area first. More than 35 families had their lives changed by the tornado on June 17, some of them perhaps forever. I thank God that our employees and the families around us came through with no loss of life. Buildings, cars, signs, a museum built over a lifetime, all of it can be mourned. None of it compares to the one loss we were spared.

"When I first stood on this property, the only picture in my mind was growth. Nature had a different view, and the only word for it is devastation. Seeing it up close and personal is overwhelming.

"In the days since, my son Michael, surrounded by the MAM Team, has shouldered this catastrophe. How, I still have no clue. Carrying a load like this for the family, largely on his own, is heavier than most people will ever understand, and I am proud of him beyond what I can put into words. We have not stood alone. Tim Weis, Grunloh Building, Niemerg's Steak House, Lion's Liquors, Chet Kiefer, and Joe's Pizza and others have all stepped up when it counted most. That kind of community support has been outstanding, and I will not forget a minute of it.

"I will also be honest, because it is the only way I know how to be. A 52-year company does not lose nearly everything overnight without a town noticing. Where I come from, when your neighbor is on the ground, you reach down. I still believe that is who we are in this part of Illinois. We are not finished. Mid America Motorworks has been here for over 50 years, and we intend to be here for the next 50. To everyone who has already shown us what community means, thank you.

Mike and Laurie had recently retired to Florida to be nearer their younger son Blake and family. The management of Mid America had been assumed by older son, Michael. Mecum Auctions had sold some of Yager's Corvette collection at the January 2026 Kissimmee Auction, but obviously some Corvettes remained at MY Garage.

New Members

Tim McDonald
Corinth, TX
1998 Blue GS Coupe



Birthdays for July

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 7-01 Melissa Wilson | 7-15 Lisa Guerra |
| 7-01 Guy Coyne | 7-15 Michael Benedetto |
| 7-03 Linda Deneault | 7-20 Sam Ghazaleh |
| 7-06 Don Kingston | 7-21 Ed Atchley |
| 7-06 Rick Maybury | 7-21 Mildred Van Guilder |
| 7-07 Yavuz Colasan | 7-23 Tom Atchison |
| 7-09 Barbara Echols | 7-24 Stephen Parry |
| 7-11 Bruce Jarrett | 7-26 Tami Braun |
| 7-11 Denise Eckhart | 7-26 Loudeene Spencer |
| 7-11 Joel Joseph | 7-28 Dennis Conte |
| 7-11 Sandy Lainson | 7-29 Gerry Boren |
| 7-12 Geni McLeod | |

LEGENDS Club Shirts & Hats

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Full instructions and complete selection of items on the web page.

Call Jeff Clevenger if you need help: 972-948-7218

NEW! Club Window Stickers

Available at the July Meeting

\$3^{ea}



Generation Breakout of Legends Members' Corvettes (6/19/26)

Be sure to let Dennis Conte know when you buy or sell your Corvette(s) so our Corvette census is correct.

		1953	24	14%
		1962		
		1963	29	17%
		1967		
		1968	27	15%
		1982		
		1984	6	4%
		1996		
		1997	15	9%
		2004		
		2005	27	15%
		2013		
		2014	27	15%
		2019		
		2020	20	11%
		2026		
			128	Memberships
			175	Total

See Back Issues and Legends Newsletter in Color at VetteLegends.com

CORVETTE LEGENDS OF TEXAS GENERAL MEETING

June 13, 2026, Prairie House Restaurant, Lewisville

The members of Corvette Legends were called to order by Tom Hubbert about 12:10. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Attendance was recorded as 54.

Guests: Bob Hayes

New Members: Tim McDonald, 1996 Grand Sport
Frank & Susan Hanfland, 1998 C5 red convertible

Lady Legends Winner: Cheryl Williams

50/50 Pot Winner: Millie Van Guilder (\$91)

A raffle for a National Corvette Museum membership replaced the normal prize raffle. Sam Ghazaleh's ticket was drawn, Congratulations, Sam! The raffle raised \$755 to be added to the Patriot PAWS Service Dogs donation to be given at the July meeting.

Next, Scott Spiegel was introduced. Scott is our sponsor, Huffines Corvette specialist, and he gave us a great talk about the C8 Z06, Grand Sport, Grand Sport X. He asked members a few questions about our 'dream car' and answered member's questions. He also recommended and talked about Corvette driving schools. He's available at Huffine's in Lewisville for any of our needs.

Next Meetings: July 11 at BJ's Brewhouse, Addison

Aug. 8 Spring Creek BBQ, Richardson

Sept 12 A new location: Big Mike's Bar & Grill, 3200 Alma Dr, Plano. More info to come.

A Patriot PAWS Service Dogs trainer & dog will be guests at our July meeting. They will give us information about Patriot PAWS Service Dogs and give us a demo with the dog. Tom will then present them with our donation check. The donation is the result of the prize awarded from the Lewisville Holiday parade, the swap meet sale of Sherry Snider's donated parts and the NCM membership raffle.

Steve Parry reviewed upcoming events. There will be a 250th anniversary USA event at Buckhorn Park in Plano on June 27. Another new event is Cars & Coffee at the Plano Tortilla Factory restaurant, 1009 18th St, Plano. It's the first Sunday of each month starting at 8AM. There will also be a Vettes4Vets event around Veteran's Day. More info to come.

Steve Parry & Dennis Conte shared their experience of the Route 66 event in Tulsa at the end of May. Both attended not knowing they were both going and were part of 3596 cars in the Guinness world record for the largest classic car parade! It was an exciting event for them. Dennis also talked about the dinner cruise to Spicy Mexico in Bowie. Everyone attending enjoyed it.

We now have Corvette Legends logo inside window sticker emblems available for member purchase. They will be \$3 each. Please see Jeff Clevenger. Diane Preston had requested bids from vendors and through a misunderstanding, they were printed so the club got a deal. Sales proceeds will be donated to Patriot Paws in the future.

Finally, Butch McLeod spoke about a collection of rare die cast model cars he had brought along. They

were part of a friend's collection who recently passed. Butch was offering them to aid and help the gentleman's wife.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Conde, Secretary



Bill Messick, new member Tim McDonald, and Scott Ray.



Ron & Pat Cople



Sam Ghazaleh won the NCM membership donated by Sharon & Craig Conde



Millie VanGuilder with Cheryl & Gary Williams



Krista Harley, Community Relations Manager for Huffines, Jeff Clevenger, Tom Hubbert, and our speaker, Huffines' Rep Scott Spiegel.



July 11 Meeting
BJ's Brewhouse
& Restaurant
Addison, TX
See page 2

Place
Postage
Here

**Patriot PAWS
Service Dog
Demonstration
at Meeting!**

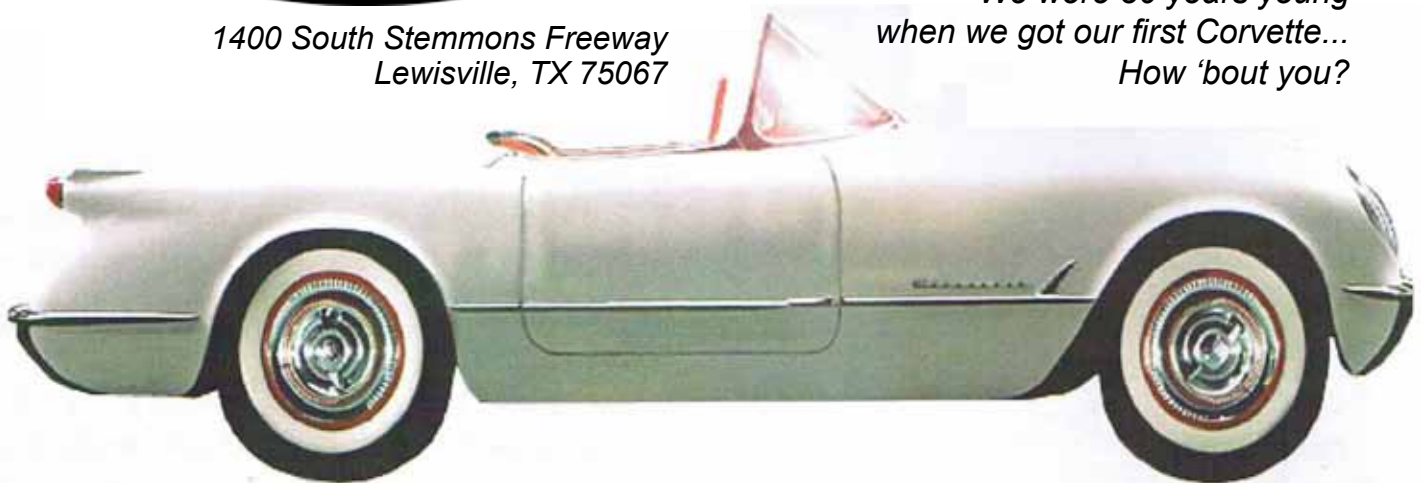


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Lewisville, TX 75067

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