

Carroll H. Shelby, Race Car Driver and Designer

Eighteen-year-old Carroll H. Shelby enlisted in the Army Air Forces in November 1941, serving four years as a flight instructor. He was commissioned toward the end of his tour and was discharged as a second lieutenant. In 1952, he entered his first auto competition—a quarter-mile drag race—and within five years was named Sports Illustrated Driver of the Year. He built the CSX, the first Cobra sports car, in 1962; a year later, the Cobra won the US Road Racing Championship. Ford Motor Co., impressed with the maverick race car designer, asked him to develop a high-performance Mustang fastback, which he did. Shelby was elected to the Automotive Hall of Fame in 1992.