

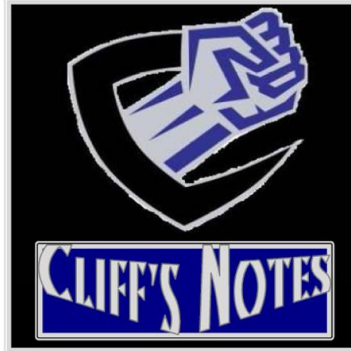
It is Memorial Day as I write this. Being a weekday holiday, I was able to listen to Dr. William Bennett's radio show *Morning in America*, something I can rarely do on a weekday. Holidays often mean reruns, but to his great credit, Dr. Bennett's broadcast today was live, and he devoted the show to veterans and Memorial Day. Dr. Bennett was engaging as always, and those who called in expressed appreciation for his effort in broadcasting live on Memorial Day. The show starts at 6 am, so clearly he rose early to be ready. One wonders how much energy he had left for the usual activities later in the day, but I would guess the Bennett family fully supported him in his Memorial Day tribute, gladly making the necessary allowances.

Many callers were veterans, or had a veteran in the family or as friend. These were wonderful, but one in particular struck home. I was not alone in this reaction: Dr. Bennett remarked that it was the finest message that he could remember in a long time.

It was over too quickly, so I may not have some of these details exactly right. To the extent my recollections of the call are in error, my apologies to the caller and Dr. Bennett. Regardless: the caller was a Belgian, born in the Belgian Congo, since 1960 the Democratic Republic of the Congo. His father was a WWII veteran of the Belgian Army who never missed a Memorial Day, when he would attend ceremonies at Allied military cemeteries in Europe, and would always take his son. He gave a heartfelt tribute to American soldiers who gave their lives in WWII to free Belgium and Europe from Hitler's tyranny.

I have made several business trips to Europe over the years. Unfortunately most of these were confined to airplanes, airports, hotel rooms and conference rooms. Rarely, I was able to get out and see the country or visit museums and places of historical interest. One occasion left me with a weekend for exploring. I found my way to the American Cemetery in Hamm, Luxembourg, the burial place of thousands of American GIs who lost their lives in what is now known as the Battle of the Bulge. General George S. Patton, who died from injuries in a car accident after the war, is also buried there.

The weather on that day was perfect. It is hard to describe the feelings and emotions that came over me as I stood near Patton's grave looking out over the cemetery with those thousands of identical Crosses and Stars of David, glistening pure white in



the warm sun, all in neat rows as far as I could see. It had a powerful effect on me, and when I finally tore myself away, I was changed. I had visited a sacred place.

The Belgian related that during the ceremonies his dad took him to as a boy, he occupied the time counting the rows of Crosses and Stars of David, and that he never finished counting before the ceremonies

ended. I understood from his emotion-filled words today he was not relating a failure at child's play, but rather was attempting to put dimensions on the American sacrifice in Europe during WWII, and his appreciation for it. I connected instantly with his message, as he had seen many times what I had been privileged to see (so far!) only once: the sacred final resting place of fallen American heroes. As inadequate as it may be, I dedicate this to their memory, and I thank the members of the VFR for giving me the opportunity to write these things straight from my heart on this Memorial Day, 2010.

Don't forget our brunch on Sunday, 13 June, at The Grill at Embassy Suites in Chesterbrook, PA. The brunch starts at 10 am, but event coordinator Don Miller has promised good weather, so plan to arrive early with your favorite collector iron for an informal show and shine. Last year's gathering was a great success, affording an opportunity to relax and enjoy good food, good cars, and good company before the heat of summer sets in. Complete information and a registration form are available on the VFR Website and elsewhere in this issue. Please register by Monday, 7 June; after that, please contact Don Miller (610-647-1358 [or e-mail Don](#)) and every attempt will be made to accommodate you.

Watch future issues of The Goddess and our website for more details on all the activities we are planning for this car show season. Our Webmaster extraordinaire Pat Caruso has provided links to many other car-related activities throughout the summer that may interest you, so please check them out, too.

And finally, please join us at Otto's in Horsham, PA on 15 June and the third Tuesday of every month for our regular monthly meeting. We need your energy, your help planning and running the upcoming events, and your good ideas for future activities.

CADILLAC CLASSES AT CARLISLE'S ALL-GM EVENT

Contributed by VFR Member Tom Pollutri (thanks, Tom, for advising us of these developments)

Last year, the judged show field at Carlisle All-GM Nationals (June 2009) only had one judged class for ALL Cadillac model years (i.e., a 1960s Cadillac had to compete against a 2000s Cadillac). In previous years, there were actually multiple classes, but it was scaled back to only a single class in 2009.

I wanted to share the somewhat good news with you (and our club) that, as per my below email exchange with Rick Markko. Carlisle Events has slightly expanded the Cadillac classes at Carlisle All-GM Nationals this year (June 25 - 27, 2010) from one to two classes:

1. All Cadillacs 1980 and older
2. All Cadillacs 1981 and newer

More classes would be better, but at least two classes are certainly better than just one.

Tom:

Thanks for taking the time to write. I appreciate your interest and your feedback.

You are correct in that the total number of Cadillacs has been decreasing, especially the classic/vintage years. I'm sure some of this has to do with the natural aging process. (Like you hardly see "Brass Era" cars out of a museum these days.)

It certainly was not my intention to minimize the importance of these timeless classics by eliminating classes. I actually intended to separate the Cadillac classes into two classes, pre-1980 and post-1980 to prevent a recurrence of 2009.

1980 seems to make sense for a reasonable break point, until more Cadillac's attend the event. Do you agree?

We'll revisit all of the classes, as we do each year, to see if they make sense for the following year.

PLEASE, reach out to your friends and have them pre-register so that we get a more accurate count PRIOR to the event to facilitate laying out the show field.

Please feel free to share your thoughts.

Thanks!

Rick

Rick Markko
Event Manager
All-Ford Nationals & All-GM Nationals

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Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 3:24 PM

To: Rick Markko

Subject: Carlisle All-GM Nationals

Rick,

I saw on the www.carsatcarlisle.com website that the 2010 All-GM Nationals Classes only have 1 class for All Cadillac's (Class # 120 - Cadillac (ALL)). This was also the case in 2009, but not in 2005 - 2008, where you had several classes.

I understand that these decisions are often made based on how many Cadillac's actually registered for the show-field in each category, and it looked like there was a sharp decline in registrants in 2008 for the Pre-1974 category (which I inferred from the fact that there was a single 1st place winner and no 2nd or 3rd place winners in 2008 in the pre-1974 category, and I know I myself did not attend that year).

For 2009, I know that several antique Cadillac car clubs were in attendance (Cadillac-LaSalle Club - Valley Forge Region, Cadillac-LaSalle Club - Southeastern PA Region, etc) and as such there were quite a few 1950s-1980s registered? on the show field in the Cadillac-ALL class, including a 1964 Convertible and my 1962 Sedan de Ville. The 3 show field winners in Cadillac-ALL were a 2004 Cadillac (first and second place) and a 1989 Cadillac in third place. Several of us vintage Cadillac owners were disappointed that vintage Cadillac's were not represented among the 3 winners of this all-inclusive category (I guess it's challenging for a 1960s or 1970s Cadillac to fare well in the judging when compared to a 2004 Cadillac, just 5 years off the assembly line - especially since participant voting was abolished in 2009 and replaced with staff judging).

I was wondering if you'd re-consider either expanding the Cadillac classes once again, or at least weight the judging to give consideration to the age of the car (perhaps you do this already, I don't know).

Thanks in advance for your consideration and reply.

Thank you.

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