



Gib Hufstader

August 8, 1930 - May 4, 2025

If there's a secret MVP in Corvette history, Gib Hufstader is a shoo-in. Gib died at the age of 94 on Sunday, May 4th.

His tenure at GM spanned over 45 years and goes back to 1950 as a Buick- and Chevrolet-sponsored co-op student. Upon graduation from the General Motors Institute (now Kettering University) in 1955, Hufstader joined the army and went to work testing M48 Patton tanks. In 1957, he rejoined GM at Chevy R&D and worked on a variety of projects including experimental air suspensions as well as various assignments for Corvette.

Gib formally joined the Corvette group in 1964 and was there for many of the great moments in Corvette history alongside Zora. He was forced to do much of his work underground following a recommended ban on motorsports from the American Manufacturers Association in 1957. His specialty was engines, brakes, clutches and drivetrains. He worked extensively with the race teams, especially on projects like the lightweight Corvette Grand Sports, which battled the Ford Cobras for the hearts and minds of sport car enthusiasts in the 1960s. He journeyed to Le Mans to assist with the privately entered L88 Sting Ray driven by Dick Guldstrand, Bob Bondurant and Don Yenke before a late-race engine failure. He was also a regular at the Sebring 12-hour and Daytona 24-hour, assisting race teams over the years with parts and knowhow, most notably the Owens Corning Fiberglass L88 Corvettes driven

by Tony DeLorenzo and Jerry Thompson. Gib even co-drove a Corvette to 14th place overall in the 1969 Sebring 12-hour.

Hufstader also worked very closely with the Penske Trans-Am Sunoco Camaro team on engines and brakes in the late 1960s with driver Mark Donohue.

One of Gib's higher -profile projects was the mid-engined Aerovette concept car. This beautiful almond-shaped coupe was powered by a four-rotor engine put together by Gib, who mated a pair of two rotor engines to produce a lightweight engine with over 400 horsepower. This was to promote GM's acquisition of Wankel engine technology for possible future use in Corvette and other Chevrolet passenger cars, a pathway that GM later abandoned.

Hufstader earned seven United States patents during his career including one for the Aerovette drivetrain.

Gib was also there during the development of the 1990-1995 "King of the Hill" Gen Four Corvette ZR-1, working closely with Lotus and Mercury Marine on its all-aluminum 32-valve LT5 V8 engine. He consulted well into the development of the C5 Corvette working closely with Zora's successors Dave McLellan and later Dave Hill .

Gib remained active in Corvette circles well into his 90s and had a wide range of motoring interests. He loved vintage racing his drop-windshield Austin Healey 100/4 as well as his 1966 427 Corvette roadster. He was an aviation enthusiast and owned a Steen Skybolt aerobatic biplane. He also maintained a collection of rare exotic bikes, including a 1952 Vincent Black Shadow, a 1972 900 cc Ducati and a 1956 Triumph Trophy. For many years, he demonstrated his dirt biking skills at the week-long Colorado 500 Charity Ride.

Gib lived with his wife Sandy in Shelby Township, Michigan, both under the

loving care of their daughter Becky. His life made a real difference for the millions of Corvette enthusiasts around the globe.

Gib's funeral services will be held on May 17th at Wasik Funeral Home at 49150 Schoenherr Road in Shelby Township, Michigan. The viewing will be at 10 am with a service at 11:30 am.

Memorial contributions in lieu of floral arrangements may be directed, in Gib's memory, to <https://donate.kettering.edu/in-memory-of-gibson-hufstader-55>

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 17. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home, Shelby Township
49150 Schoenherr Rd.
Shelby Township, MI 48315
(586) 532-8600
shelby@wasikfuneralhome.com

Funeral Service

MAY 17. 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home, Shelby Township
49150 Schoenherr Rd.
Shelby Township, MI 48315
(586) 532-8600
shelby@wasikfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall



“ Wasik Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Gib Hufstader



Wasik Funeral Home, Inc. - May 17, 2025 at 10:38 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



Jürgen Reimer - June 11, 2025 at 08:15 AM



“ 116 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Wasik Funeral Home, Inc. - May 17, 2025 at 10:05 AM

BG

“ My brother, John and I were involved in racing a Corvette during the seventies. A time when General Motors, on the corporate level, forbid racing involvement. But Zora Duntov and Gib recognized the value of racing to the development of America’s only sports car. Gib was Zora’s ‘point man’ - our connection to the internal testing and the current engineering understanding of the chassis and drivetrain. No official capacity at the races, but always, always available. He’d share his expansive knowledge in many Monday debriefs with John. Even opened the factory ‘backdoor’ at some personal risk to his corporate position. We’d fail parts in competition, and he’d designate them as “Field Test Material”. We get a new stock factory part, and he’d get to inspect and learn from the failure. We all understood it was invaluable to the Chevrolet brand and Corvette specifically.

As I read the many tributes to Gib, I find even more examples that reinforce the respect we already had. A kind and decent man who was quietly direct, informed and helpful. Kind of wish we’d had more opportunity to play in the dirt with all you two wheel guys, but John and I will always be grateful for the time we did share with a significant man. God bless you and thank you Gibson Hufstader.

Burt Greenwood



Burt Greenwood - May 16, 2025 at 03:59 PM

FW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Frank Walker - May 16, 2025 at 10:03 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gib Hufstader.

May 16, 2025 at 09:04 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gib Hufstader.



May 16, 2025 at 09:04 AM

DH

“ Gib was chief engineer on the famous Lotus Cortina team... we met once a month at the Whistle Stop to talk strategy.. his writings on napkins on making the car go faster were priceless.. we ran Mid Ohio , Gratten, Indy and Waterford.. in one race at Waterford, I was in race with GiB .. my co driver Pete Halsmer , IMSA and Indy fame . Decided I should be in the big bore race.. near the end due to many yellow flag events, I got in front of the world famous GiB 427 Corvette, another yellow flag was thrown , I slowed down and GiB thunder past me !!! A big no no, when I talked to him , he claimed he was color blind!!!!... he did not want to lose to a 1.5 liter English sedan ... oh well, he was a brilliant friend !!!

Don Heth - May 16, 2025 at 08:42 AM

FW

“ Gib took excellent care of Zora and his wife Elfi Arkus-Duntov in their later years. Gib was like their son they never had. — Frank Walker

Frank Walker - May 14, 2025 at 11:33 PM

FT

“ Gib became my mentor when I joined the Y car group in 1979 to help design and develop the 1984 corvette. He was one of only a few people I trusted to drive fast with not that we did so very much on road trips and at the PG's. Attached is a photo from 2015 of Gib and the late Fred Leydorf with Fred's \$50M Ferrari. I unfortunately cannot attend his services due to my sister's funeral being the same day and time. Frank Tenkel



Frank G Tenkel - May 14, 2025 at 02:59 PM

DP

“ As a motorcycle enthusiast I first met Gib when we both worked at Chevrolet Engineering
We shared motorcycle information and rode our dirt bikes together many times over the years.
I helped him (crewed) a few times when he raced his Corvette at Waterford Hills.
He took my son who was interested in flying up in one of his planes for his first plane ride.
One day several years ago famous motorcyclist Malcolm Smith was in the Detroit area and through their mutual connection with the Colorado 500 had contacted Gib for a tour of the Tech Center
Gib called me at work and asked if I would like to go to lunch with motorcyclist Malcolm Smith. Of course I accepted and was thrilled to meet Malcolm.
At some point in time during one of our conversations it was revealed that we both had the same birthday. August 8th. Not exactly as Gib was born in 1930 and I in 1940.
So we established a routine to call each other on our birthday each year, a sort of contest to see who would call first.
I last talked to Gib on August 8, 2024 and will miss talking to my dear friend in August this year

Doug Pippin - May 14, 2025 at 12:09 PM

GL

“ Gib was e good friend and co-worker thru the 80s and 90s corvette programs. I enjoyed visiting with him at the CEC retirement lunches.
He will be missed

Guy LaFalce - May 14, 2025 at 10:04 AM

JL

“ Janet lohman purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Gib Hufstader.



Janet lohman - May 13, 2025 at 05:36 PM



“ Gib was a 30 year veteran rider on the Colorado 500, he never missed a year between 1978-2008! He had many friends on the ride and was highly respected, a true gentleman and trail ambassador. He will be dearly missed. His name plaque will be placed on the Colorado 500 Memorial in front of Alpine Bank, Ouray CO.



Janet Lohman - May 13, 2025 at 05:06 PM

HC

“ I will miss you Gib. Gib Hufstader spoke at our Corvette all people team meeting just before the 2020 8th gen Corvette mid engine was announced. He entertained all of us with great stories of working with Zora on mid-engine projects like the Aerovette. Gib will be remembered for his Corvette accomplishments, as a great engineer and a gentleman forever, and we are honored to have known him.



Harlan Charles - May 13, 2025 at 11:04 AM

FW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Frank Walker - May 12, 2025 at 10:09 PM

FW

Gib took excellent care of Zora and his wife Elfi Arkus-Duntov in their later years. Gib was like their son they never had. And he was a great friend to me!

Frank Walker

Frank Walker - May 14, 2025 at 11:27 PM

RC

“ *I had the good fortune to reside next to Gib at work probably some 40 or so years ago at Chevrolet Engineering. We shared many stories of the "good old days", Gib's Corvette and racing endeavors and my time in the engine dyno. lab at the Tonawanda Engine Plant running those big block engines on the dynamometers. We also shared many good times at the CEC retirement luncheons. A fine gentleman who will be dearly missed.*

Richard Cunningham - May 12, 2025 at 02:42 PM

JS

“ *Gib in a work environment was soft spoken and didn't waste words but all his words carried knowledge and weight. We shared a passion for big block engines and motorcycles. After formal retirement from GM we enjoyed many conversations at the CEC retirement lunches. I was a respectful Gib groupie.*

John Stier - May 11, 2025 at 04:08 PM

SG

“ Sweetest, most patient man ever. You will be missed Uncle Gibb

Sherry Green - May 10, 2025 at 10:11 AM

RZ

“ I cut Gibson’s hair for the past few years. Gibson was one of the kindest people I have ever known. We always had wonderful conversations about corvettes, Jesus and his family whom he loved dearly. Gib I will miss you my friend. It was my great honor to have known you. Rest easy my friend.

Richie Zuccaro - May 10, 2025 at 02:25 AM

VH

“ I always enjoyed working with Gib. He was a never-ending source of knowledge on Corvettes, motorcycles and Indy Cars. He will be missed.

Vincent Humann - May 08, 2025 at 09:21 AM