

Porsche mourns loss of Vic Elford

14/03/2022 "Quick Vic" was a Porsche Motorsport endurance and rally racing legend.

Porsche motorsport legend Vic Elford passed away at his home in Plantation, Florida on March 13. The 86-year-old battled against cancer in recent years with the same tenacity and determination that made him one of only four drivers to record six major victories at the Nürburgring during his long racing career. Elford earned the nickname “Quick Vic” for his ability to wring speed from cars ranging from hill climb specials to rally racers, open-wheel Formula One cars and rocket-fast sports car prototypes. Elford is survived by his wife, Anita.

Elford was the first driver to have an average lap of the Circuit de la Sarthe (Le Mans) above 150 mph – he did so in a 1970 Porsche 917 LH (Long-Tail). He was a two-time 24 Hours of Le Mans class winner (1967 and 1973) and famously won the prestigious Monte Carlo Rally, driving a Porsche 911, and the Rolex 24 At Daytona, behind the wheel of a Porsche 907, in back-to-back weeks in 1967. The '67 Daytona win was the marque's first international 24-hour race victory.

Elford made eight starts at Le Mans, six in a Porsche, with the first victory coming piloting a Porsche 906 K, the second in a Ferrari. His last start at the endurance racing classic came in 1974 in the seat of

a Porsche 911 Carrera RSR. His remarkable driving career also spanned into Can-Am and NASCAR's Daytona 500.

Nickname 'Quick Vic'

While his on-track success is nearly mythological, the greatest of all the accolades Elford achieved came in 1972 when he was named *Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite* by French President Georges Pompidou. The prestigious honor was awarded for his act of courage and heroism during the 24 Hours of Le Mans when he stopped to assist a fellow driver from a burning car. The same outreach and consideration of his fellow drivers reached through the generations as Elford is recognized as a hero and mentor by countless drivers of today.

Elford's skill can readily be seen in the movie *Le Mans* where Steve McQueen chose him to handle the high-speed close-up action shots driving the famous Porsche 917. A role that celebrated its golden anniversary in June 2021 with the 50th Anniversary of the premiere of the iconic film.

A longtime driving coach, Elford also wrote two books: *The Porsche High Performance Driving Handbook* and *Reflections on a Golden Era in Motorsport* .

Comments

Kjell Gruner, President and CEO, Porsche Cars North America.

"We have stayed close to Vic and Anita, particularly in recent years, and while we knew Vic was ill, the loss is still felt acutely - we send our sincere condolences to Anita and to the whole family. His achievements on track are simply staggering – I grew up in awe of him, as many of us at Porsche did - yet it will be his warmth, his kindness and decency that will remembered most by the colleagues who knew him well."

Volker Holzmeyer, President and CEO, Porsche Motorsport North America.

"I'm desperately sad to hear this news. We have lost one of the all-time greats from our motorsport community. At Porsche we're often described as a family – but in motorsport especially so. On behalf of every one of us at Porsche Motorsport North America we want to express our profound sadness at this news. Vic was – and will always be – a hero to us. Our immediate thoughts are with his family and his friends at this time."

Impressions from the racing career of Vic Elford

Hurley Haywood.

“Vic Elford was truly an icon. He was loved by many. His accomplishments were unmatched, and he will be greatly missed by all. Vic and I became friends later in his career. We never raced against each other, but I respected the man greatly. I feel terrible for Anita. She was his right hand man. She, his family and his friends are all in my thoughts. Anita is a strong woman and I take some comfort in knowing she will succeed in her next step.”

Patrick Long.

“As a factory Porsche driver, I got to know Vic quite well – at first, I was a in awe just to be in his presence. Quickly– his direct approach and immense humility immediately made you feel at ease. Always upbeat, it was such a treat to hear Vic tell stories of his legendary journeys with a massive smile. I will always be grateful for the fun we had, his encouragement and the kindness he showed me. My thoughts are with Anita and everyone who knew Vic. I'm so sad he's gone.”

More from the Porsche Museum

Elford was fully committed to the qualities of the Porsche 911 for his whole life: "It's the only car that's adaptable enough to use in all possible circumstances. Snow, ice, tarmac, uphill, downhill, fast or slow – the 911 can do anything." Despite being a humble man throughout his life, Elford knew what he was capable of. He once said: "Could a Porsche 911 have won the Monte Carlo Rally without me? Yes – but not in 1968. I don't think anybody else could have driven a 911 like I did at the time."

Career and highlights at Porsche

1967
European Rally Champion in a Porsche 911 S

1967
First race at Le Mans, finishing first in his class and seventh overall in a Porsche 906K Carrera 6

1967
Winner of the first rallycross event in history in a Porsche 911 R

1968
Winner of the 1,000 kilometre race on the Nürburgring in a Porsche 908

1968
Winner of the Monte Carlo Rally in a Porsche 911 T

1968
Winner of the Targa Florio in a Porsche 907 KH

1968
Winner of the 24 Hours of Daytona in a Porsche 907 KH

1968 – 1971
Thirteen starts in Formula One

1969
Winner of the Nürburgring 1,000 kilometre race in a Porsche 908

1970
Winner of the Nürburgring 1,000 kilometre race in a Porsche 908

MEDIA ENQUIRIES



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Video

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