

## CLASS OF 2014

### Leland Kangas

Looking back, it is difficult to believe the racing career of Leland Kangas was only seventeen years in length. But, he drove memorable cars to memorable championships and memorable accomplishments.

Leland took his first laps in a race car at Oxford Plains Speedway in 1972. To say he was a "natural" would be an understatement. Competing in the speedway's highly competitive six-cylinder Charger division, Leland won two races in his rookie season followed by ten wins and the division championship the next year.

Required by the track rules, Leland had to move up to the Late Model Sportsman division where he and crew chief Sheldon Morgan won four races over the next four years.

In 1980, the big move was made to the NASCAR North Tour. Competing on tracks all over New England and eastern Canada, Leland captured Rookie-of-the-Year honors. He ventured back to his home track, winning his share of races.

He teamed up with Bernie Allen for the 1984 season and over the next five years, Leland won twenty-six races, three track championships (1985, 1986 and 1988) a Triple Crown series title (1985). During the same five-year span, he finished in the top ten in the OXFORD 250 three times with a career best fifth in 1986.

Sadly, Leland lost his life in a motorcycle accident in July 2004.

Tonight, we salute the memory and the racing career of Leland Kangas.

