

CLASS OF 2016

Pete Silva

In a successful career that spanned more than 35 years, second generation driver Pete Silva won over 120 feature races at tracks up and down the eastern seaboard. This popular wheel-man from Waterville started driving in 1970, and continued until 2006 carrying on a tradition his father, George Silva, began in the 1950s.

His career took him from the bullrings of Maine to the NASCAR-sanctioned short tracks of the south-east. Pete was the first New England native to win a race in the old NASCAR Late Model Sportsman ranks, driving to victory in the Firecracker 150 at Hickory Motor Speedway in July 1980.

Among his many other high-profile victories were wins in the Bobby Isaac Memorial 300 (1981, also at Hickory), and the Miller 200 at New Asheville Speedway for two consecutive years. Pete won races at 12 different tracks in six different states.

In 1998, Pete became the Blue Ridge Region Champion in NASCAR's Winston Racing Series. He won track championships at the Greenville-Pickens Speedway (1998, 2001) and at Hickory in 2002.

Along with his success behind the wheel, Pete claims one of his most memorable moments in racing came from helping his lifelong friend, David Prescott, build his Busch North Series team and get him to Victory Lane.

During his long career, Silva competed on 47 different race tracks from Maine to Florida, and even a few in Canada. In both 1982 and again in 1983, Pete finished inside the top 10 in points in NASCAR's National standings.

In the early 1980s, while working for famed chassis builder Banjo Matthews, Pete built front clips and many of the suspension components for some of the top teams in the Winston Cup series.

