

CLASS OF 2017

Elsmore "Butch" Craig Jr.

Butch got involved in racing in 1968 at an early age. A few friends got together and built a car known then as a "Charger" class. Among the group was a guy named Mike Rowe, still a little below the legal age to drive at Oxford Plains. When age allowed in late 1968, they entered their first race, late in the season. They did not meet with much success to start with, but the ensuing years would prove different.

With the same crew and Butch as crew chief and chassis builder, things soon were better. From 1969 through the mid 80s, they garnered 8 championships and some second and third place standings. Two championships in one year at two separate tracks.

A highlight in Butch's career was the team winning five feature wins on Memorial Day weekend for a 5 for 5 sweep and over 20 feature wins for the year.

Butch started in the 80s building chassis for other drivers, four of whom won championships in their own right, in chassis built by him.

He also built winning cars for at least 14 other racers, all who won races in them.

He and driver Mike Rowe, along with O'Connor Motorsports competed on the Busch North tour as well as some other series. He cut back his activity in the mid 80s to dedicate more time to a growing family.

Also, he and son Brian, who also was an accomplished crew chief, started Butch Craig and Son, a fork lift sales and service business, which today is very successful.

Butch is a dedicated community member, businessman and family man. He can usually be found at a grandchild's sports activity.

