

## CLASS OF 2018

### **Rick Zemla**

Rick Zemla was just six years old when he attended his first race at the famed Beech Ridge Motor Speedway. He went there with his father, who was hauling Ralph Cusack's car. His first full year driving was 1971, when he earned Rookie of the Year honors in the Bomber Division.

Rick would prove to be a quick study throughout his entire career, winning Rookie of the Year or Most Improved honors in every division in which he competed, including Late Models, Modifieds, and the NASCAR Busch North series.

By the 1980's, Rick became one of the most successful drivers of his era at Beech Ridge. He won the Late Model Triple Crown Series in 1982, and earned 26 feature wins during his two Late Model Championship years of 1982 and 1983. Among his impressive 50 career feature victories are the prestigious Autowize 100 and Thompson Machine 100.

During this same period, Rick was also very competitive in his open-wheel Modified. He finished second to Mike Rowe while holding off Homer Drew in the 1981 Coke 100. That same year, Rick also won the final leg in the Modified Triple Crown Series. He holds the distinction of winning three features in one night.

