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 C. Steven McCarley..... Vice President .....2008  
 Jim Keenan..... Secretary .....2008  
 Kay Kleschka..... Treasurer.....2008  
 Arley Whitsell..... Past President.....\*2008

\* Or until a new President is elected succeeding Mr. Johnson

## NATIONAL DIRECTORS

Lark Bragg..... Pensacola, FL.....2008  
 Beverly Bragg..... Pensacola, FL.....2008  
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 Gary S. Byrd..... Columbia, SC.....2007  
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 Stan Edington..... Castro Valley, CA.....2008  
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 Edward Hockaday..... Houston, TX.....2008  
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 Wally Short..... Albuquerque, NM.....2008  
 James Silverman..... Brockton, MA.....2007  
 Julia Trone..... Petersburg, IL.....2008  
 Laurie Slawson..... Tucson, AZ.....2007  
 Wanda Whitsell..... Springfield, VA.....2008

### Regional Club Charter Committee

Chairperson—Jim McFarland  
 8030 Whitestone Road • Knoxville, TN 37938  
 865-925-3334 • JIMS6T6@aol.com

### Regional Club Support Committee

Chairperson—Jim Keenan  
 92-423 Leolei Street • Kapolei, HI 96707  
 808-672-0442 • mustangclubguy@aol.com

### National Show Committee

Chairperson—Laurie Slawson  
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**O**n January 2nd, I sat glued to the television as I vicariously participated in the funeral service for President Gerald R. Ford as it was being televised from the National Cathedral in Washington, DC. I was one of thousands who tuned in and heard the continuing descriptions of a good man, and an honorable man, and a decent man.

It frightens me to think that we are fast losing so many of the men and women of The Greatest Generation that took us thru the Second World War, and gave us our freedom with their blood. These men and women were made of the stuff that is at the heart of the real America.

There is a tendency to forget the common people who make up the majority of America. So often it is the spit and shine that gets the glitter on television. We are lead to think that we are not someone unless we are popular and loud. President Ford was not glitter and show. He was common and average. And, his word could be trusted. He was a good man. He was honorable and decent.

I couldn't help thinking as I watched, and participated in the Service from afar, that it is common-ness that holds us together. If you look at the Mustang car, try as you might but you weren't looking at a fancy Caddy, or a hot Hemi of the 1960's. But, it was a car of the people. It appealed to the needs of the majority. It offered a little something for the school teacher, and the hot-rodder. It was not so complicated that it couldn't be repaired. And, with a Saturday bath, and a few minutes of detailing, it looked really good around town on Sunday.

In our fascination with the popular, and the flashy, remember that it isn't the loud and boisterous that holds our long-term devotion. The real people are the hard-working, steady people who strive to be their best. We need the stability of the steady. Gerald R. Ford and the Mustang come from the steady middle of the United States. And, have you noticed that they both have similar last names?

A fitting prelude to the eulogies at the funeral of President Ford came as I watched the last college bowl game of New Year's Day 2007, on the evening before. The Fiesta Bowl pitted the #9 ranked, unpretentious, small-town college team of Boise State against the big University of Oklahoma football team that was ranked #7 in the USA. The announcers wondered if the little dog (Boise) could keep up with the BIG DOG (Oklahoma). But as the quarters ticked by, fans and watchers witnessed one of the best college football games many have ever seen. The little dog, (the average, the common) handed the big dog a stunning 43-42 overtime loss.

You and I need these reminders. It is not the flash and the bold that are remembered. It is the honest, decent, and steady plodding that are the real winners. Remember that when you earn a bronze or a second place. There is always another show for first. You are the stuff that makes for greatness.

I so appreciated the comment of Tom Brokaw (former NBC Nightly News anchor and author) as he rode in the funeral procession from the National Cathedral during his Eulogy for President Ford. He said that he looked into the faces of the people along the route who represented every color and economic level in the country. Some saluted, and others placed their hands over their hearts.

And Mr. Brokaw said, "We are at our best when we come together." I look forward to seeing you as we come together at the first National Show in Mustang, OK, on April 20-22.

**WILFRED "BILL" JOHNSON**  
 President

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