

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

"THE VALUE OF THIS DOCUMENT WILL NOT ONLY BE RELATED TO RESPECT OF THE JUDGING SYSTEM, JUDGING RULES, AND OUR JUDGING STAFF, BUT ALSO TO THE ACCURACY AND SECURITY OF THE DATABASE GOING FORWARD."



**NATIONAL HEAD JUDGE -
1ST & 2ND GENERATION**

**NATIONAL HEAD JUDGE -
3RD-5TH GENERATION**

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Achievement is described in the *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary* as, "the act of achieving: successful completion: accomplishment, a result brought about by resolve, persistence, or endeavor." *

As Mustang hobbyists, we all take pride in our Mustangs and in the awards and acknowledgments we receive when showing our cars at Mustang Club of America national events. The awards of Gold, Silver, and Bronze or First, Second, and Third, are a testament of how much hard work and resolve it takes to show that your Mustang is one of the best.

This, in itself, has more effects other than bragging rights or earning enough points to bring you that much closer to a grille medallion. It has a potential positive effect on the value of the car. For some, their Mustang or Mustangs are part of their portfolio and/or retirement fund, to ensure financial security during retirement years.

Who has not seen a Mustang for sale or being shown at a show with either the owner boasting about all the awards the car has received or has displayed a multitude of trophies in front of the car? I would imagine at times that some people looking at all these trophies would be thinking, "Are all these for this car?" Or, how about during a sale negotiation—the seller would naturally boast about all the Gold awards the car received. Without documentation, it's sometimes hard to prove without a shadow of suspicion, if in fact all, that what the seller is claiming is true.

With all that said, questions that always come up are, "What is this gold award worth," or "How, as a club, can the MCA help its membership document proof of all the accomplishments of a particular Mustang?" The MCA Grille Medallion program does this in some ways, but the medallion actually shows that this car has met the required points to receive the medallion; it does not indicate how well the car did during its time in competition.

The MCA is currently working on a plan to make the "Certificate of Achievement" available to its members. This certificate would list all the MCA awards their car received during a specific time frame. This certificate

would be of the highest quality paper, with a gold embossed MCA logo and seal. The appropriate Head Judge, Judging secretary, and President of MCA would sign certificates. The document would be serialized and a copy held on file in the MCA office.

The information on the Certificate of Achievement would come from the MCA database and would reference the specific vehicle identification number. All efforts will be in place to ensure accuracy, and it will be designed to make it extremely difficult to duplicate.

There would be a cost to the member for this framed document, but at the time of this article that price has not been determined, and can't be determined until we gather the cost to MCA to produce it.

At the May Board of Directors' meeting, the proposal to produce this certificate was made, reviewed, and overwhelmingly endorsed by the Board of Directors.

There is much work to do before the Certificates of Achievement are ready. The value of this document will not only be related to respect of the judging system, judging rules, and our judging staff, but also to the accuracy and security of the database going forward. Much is being planned to improve the security of the database along with multiple storage methods and locations.

The higher the perceived value of an award and the greater the confidence of the database, the greater value is placed on an MCA membership.

We want to get this program correct right out of the gate. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please contact me.

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Jim Silverman
National Head Judge
3rd-5th Generations