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2023 Checkered Flag Ball Honors Johnny O'Connell & Ford Performance During American Speed Festival

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PONTIAC, MI –The 2023 [Checkered Flag Ball](#) is an evening that celebrates the American Speed Festival, raising funds for the M1 Concourse charity Checkered Flag Challenge, which supports M1 Mobility which is a collaborative initiative with the [Pontiac Community Foundation](#) who strives to connect Pontiac residents with crucial community services and programs. The Checkered Flag Ball will take place on September 30, 2023, and make history as they – for the first time – honor two Masters of Motorsport.

“This year, we commemorate the centenary of the world’s most popular endurance race, the 24 Hours of Le Mans, by featuring the Americans who participated and drove in this iconic race,” said Tim McGrane, M1 Concourse CEO. “We’ll celebrate Ford Performance and Johnny O’Connell for their contributions to motorsports.”

The Ford GT Mk IV was built to win the 24 Hours of Le Mans. Driven by Dan Gurney and A.J. Foyt, it accomplished that goal in 1967, beating the second-place Ferrari by 32 miles at a record-breaking average speed of 135 MPH.

Johnny O’Connell, a revered American race car driver, has achieved an impressive four class victories at the 24 Hours of Le Mans, racing under the GM brands of Corvette and Cadillac.

Emmy award-winning TV anchor and journalist [Christy McDonald](#) will emcee the event and introduce the esteemed Masters of Motorsport.

Tickets for this exclusive event can be secured at onecause.com.

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About M1 Concourse

[M1 Concourse](#) melds style with speed, offering an unmatched automotive backdrop for events, transforming them into unparalleled, exclusive experiences. This 87-acre property encompasses a motorsports community of garages, a top-tier car service center, a fueling station, and a sprawling 28,500-square-foot event center with vistas of the 1.5-mile M1 Circuit. Located on the historic Woodward Avenue in Pontiac, M1 Concourse is a mere 35 miles from Detroit's Metropolitan International Airport.

About Johnny O'Connell

Johnny O'Connell, a revered American race car driver, has achieved four Pirelli World Challenge titles and an impressive four class victories at the 24 Hours of Le Mans. Recognized as a top racer and a factory GM driver for both Corvette and Cadillac, O'Connell is a cornerstone of modern sports car racing. His outstanding achievements, including eight victories at Sebring's 12-hour race, solidify his legendary status. As Corvette celebrates its 70th anniversary, O'Connell's legacy is further immortalized with the 2023 Master of Motorsports award.

About Ford Performance

Ford Performance is based in Dearborn, Mich. It is responsible for Ford's performance vehicle development and major racing operations globally, including NASCAR, IMSA, SRO British GT, FIA World Rally Championship, Supercars Championship, World of Outlaws, Ultra4, SCORE-International, FIA Rally-Raid, Formula Drift, NHRA, Rebelle Rally, Thailand Super Series and our latest commitment in Formula 1 with RedBull Ford Powertrains. Ford Performance also maintains a constantly evolving fleet of electric performance demonstrators to showcase the limits of electrification technology. In addition, the organization also oversees the development of Ford's racing engines, as well as the outreach programs with all Ford Clubs and Ford enthusiasts. For more information regarding Ford racing's activities, please visit Performance.Ford.com or follow @FordPerformance on Facebook, Instagram, Threads, Twitter, TikTok and YouTube.