

Acceptance Speech by Mike Grillo – 10/24/2030

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am truly honored to accept the JFK Junior Community Service Award on behalf of the Cape Cod Classics Car Club.

This recognition means a great deal to us, as it reflects our commitment to serving our community.

Before I delve into the significance of classic cars in preserving history and engaging with the next generation, I want to remember the recent loss of our dear friend and past president, Ron Danielson. Ron was not just a leader in our club; he was a pillar of our community. His memory will forever be etched in our hearts and in the stories we share.

In addition to our summer initiatives and community support, over the last seven years, we've given over \$45,000 in donations to local charities. The primary benefactors of these contributions have been our cherished sponsors and supporters, who have become integral to our programs connecting local businesses with the community through our website. This synergy has been instrumental in benefiting both businesses and the community together, creating a win-win situation that strengthens the bonds within our local ecosystem.

Classic cars, you see, are not just vehicles; they are portals to our history. They are a tangible link to an era that has shaped our culture and society. We are not just owners of these cars; we are curators of heritage. Passing down the knowledge and appreciation of these classics is crucial.

And now, let me elaborate on one of the most heartwarming aspects of our club's activities. Some of the best moments we experience occur when young people and children attend our events with their grandparents or parents. Many of them have never seen a classic car up close, or it's the first time they get to stand next to one of these beautifully preserved vehicles. Their faces light up with curiosity and excitement. They're brimming with questions and wonder, and it's heartwarming to see them interact with the older generation, their parents, or the car owners.

It's a beautiful experience to engage with these kids, as it takes me back to my own beginnings. I remember riding my bike over the bridge to the Cape Cod Factory Outlet Mall to see the "Shamrods" on Tuesday nights. Those memories are etched in my heart, just as the love for classic cars was planted in me. It's a bridge across generations, connecting the past with the future.

Our involvement with classic cars extends far beyond the physical vehicles themselves. It's about sharing a piece of our history, igniting the spark of curiosity in the younger generation, creating connections that bridge the past and the future, making a positive impact on our community, and supporting local businesses and charities.

In conclusion, we are grateful for the recognition from the Greater Hyannis Area Chamber of Commerce. As we honor the memory of our dear friend, Ron Danielson, let us remember that our commitment to community service is the fuel that keeps our club running. Together, we can overcome the challenges in our lives and community, preserve history, foster community connections, and give back to those who have supported us, all while passing on the love for classic cars to the next generation.

Thank you for your time and your support.

Mike Grillo
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CLASSICS CAR CLUB
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