



Member Tribute



Fred Hudson

The Chris-Craft Commander Club bestowed its Hall of Fame award to Chris-Craft Designer, Fred Hudson (1929-2010), posthumously, at its 2010 Rendezvous in Huron, Ohio.

Fred's contribution to the birth of the Commander (Chris-Craft's first fiberglass cruiser) cannot be overstated. Along with veteran Chris-Craft designer and Senior Vice-President, A.W. MacKerer, Hudson used his vision to bring to market a true classic in the new technology of fiberglass. The Chris-Craft 1964 38' Commander Express was an instant success.

Quoting Herb Pocklington, who had the opportunity to work alongside Hudson, "Fred had the vision, his vision, and the others had experience and a desire to make the final design uncomplicated- in their eyes – and easy to build." Their final product - the Commander – continues to captivate admirers even today as a result of that timeless vision.

That timeless vision was also later realized in his work for the Uniesse Italian line of mega-yachts.

However, Fred's first love was automobile design. His work with car giants Packard, American Motors and Chrysler is legendary. But, it's his uncompromising work in the field of boat design, that warrants our recognition, and we couldn't be more delighted than to bestow unto Mr. Hudson this award for his contributions to Chris-Craft, the Commander line of cruisers, and the joy he has brought to thousands of Commander owners, yesterday and today.

Thank you Fred. Rest peacefully.