

Lowell Sun - Lowell, Mass.

Friday, June 11, 2004

Ralph A. Moody Jr. ... in N.C., Racing Hall of Famer; 86

MOORESVILLE, N.C. — Ralph A. Moody Jr., 86, a World War II Army veteran who served under Gen. George Patton and a racing pioneer and Hall of Famer who won 93 races as a car owner on NASCAR's top circuit, died Wednesday, June 9, in Mooresville. He was the husband of Marjorie "Mitzi" Tobin Moody, whom he married on Oct. 15, 1949.

 He was born in Dighton, Mass., on Sept. 10, 1917, son of the late Ralph A. Sr. and Julia Dowling Moody. Mr. Moody served in the U.S. Army during World War II in the 3rd Armored Division.

From 1957 until 1972, as co-owner of Holman-Moody Racing shop in North Carolina, Mr. Moody consistently put drivers in the winner's circle and helped make Charlotte a motorsports center.

Mr. Moody also won five races as a driver in 1956-57.

After the 1971 season, Mr. Moody sold his shares in Holman-Moody and opened Ralph Moody Inc. in Charlotte. He built race cars and race engines and did research and development of high-mileage automobiles for several years. He was innovative in developing safety features for the auto racing industry.

Mr. Moody was inducted last year into the N.C. Auto Racing Hall of Fame. He was inducted into the National Motorsports Press Association Stock Car Racing Hall of Fame in 1990 and into the International Motorsports Hall of Fame in 1994.

He was a member of St. Therese Catholic Church in Mooresville.

Besides his wife, he is survived by a son, Ralph A. Moody III and his wife, Claudia, of Mooresville; a daughter, Ann Moody of Denver; three granddaughters, Kelly Wilson, Elizabeth Moody, and Lauren Moody; and a sister-in-law, Mary "Snookie" Tobin of Mooresville.

Mr. Moody was also the brother of the late Thelma Machado and Hattie Brown.

MOODY — Ralph A. Jr., 86, of N.C., died June 9. Graveside services will be held at 11:00 AM, Tuesday, June 15, 2004, at Westlawn Cemetery, Littleton, MA. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Therese Catholic Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., Mooresville, NC 28117, Hospice of Iredell County, 403 E. Statesville Ave., Mooresville, NC 28115 and/or the Charity of Donor's Choice. Cavin-Cook Funeral Home, Mooresville, is serving the family of Mr. Moody.