



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Valerie Brown, Dir., Media  
904-636-7475  
[vbrown@ameliaconcours.org](mailto:vbrown@ameliaconcours.org)

**BOBBY ALLISON HEADLINES  
2005 AMELIA ISLAND CONCOURS d'ELEGANCE**

*3-time Daytona 500 Winner Amelia's First Stock Car Racing Honoree*

**JACKSONVILLE, FL;** September 23, 2004 -- NASCAR great Bobby Allison will be the honoree for the 2005 Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance scheduled for March 11-13. The Winston Cup Series Champion in 1983, Allison's 84 NASCAR victories tie him for third on the all-time list with Darrell Waltrip.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for the Amelia Island Concours," says Bill Warner, founder and chairman. "Over the years, we have honored a diverse group of individuals who were highly successful in all forms of racing and Bobby's addition completes the circle. He was one of stock car racing's very best and we are honored that he agreed to be with us for the week." Allison drove and won in nine makes and models including AMC, Buick, Chevrolet, Dodge, Ford, Mercury, Plymouth, Pontiac, and the Ford Mustang.

One of the original "Alabama Gang," Allison's achievements span a diverse career of over 40 years. In addition to his '83 Winston Cup Championship, he is a three-time winner of NASCAR's "crown jewel" – the Daytona 500, a six-time winner of NASCAR's Most Popular Driver Award, the 1980 IROC Series champion, and was named one of NASCAR's 50 Greatest Drivers in 1998. He also has over 600 short track victories and has been inducted into the North Carolina Auto Racing Hall of Fame, the Living Legends of Auto Racing, the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame, the International Motorsports Hall of Fame, and the Florida Sports Hall of Fame. Allison had nearly \$8 million in career earnings.

**-more-**

### From Stock Car Champ To Pilot To Inventor

While Allison is best known for his many trips to victory lane, he is also credited with a number of inventions such as split spring suspension for modifieds, which made the cars lighter and handle better. He also designed a front steering chassis for Winston Cup and Busch entries that is used by most teams today. His ingenuity was not reserved just for race cars. An avid pilot, Allison also developed an oil-heated wing de-ice, anti-ice system for light twin-engine airplanes. He has owned a number of planes over the years including nine Aerostars, two of which he equipped with experimental turbine engines.

### Going Where The Racing Was

Bobby Allison was born in 1937 in Miami, Florida. Along with his brother, Donnie, he left Miami in 1959 to search for “racing territory.” They ended up in Montgomery, Alabama, and heard about races being held at the Dixie Speedway in Midfield. Allison finished fifth in a Friday night feature race and earned more money than he ever had in South Florida. When he returned to Miami and told his hero Red Farmer about his experience, Farmer decided to join Bobby and Donnie in moving to Alabama and The Alabama Gang was born. Allison and his wife, Judy, have been married for 44 years and live in Mooresville, North Carolina.

The 2005 Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance will be held March 11-13 at The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island. The featured marque will be Alfa Romeo and the show will also celebrate 50 years of the Chevrolet small block V-8 motor. The show's foundation has donated nearly \$1.3 million to Community Hospice of Northeast Florida, Inc. since 1996.

*The Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance is one of the nation's most innovative vintage auto shows featuring over 250 rare classics from seldom-seen private collections nationwide. The show is scheduled for March 11-13, 2005, on the grounds of The Ritz-Carlton. For more information, visit [www.ameliaconcours.org](http://www.ameliaconcours.org) or contact them at 904-636-0027.*

####