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**AFTER 50-YEAR ABSENCE, GM's FUTURLINER RETURNS TO  
FLORIDA FOR THE AMELIA ISLAND CONCOURS**

*Unique Bus Housed "Parade of Progress" & Toured U.S. As GM's Vision Of The Future*

**JACKSONVILLE, FL;** February 6, 2006 – Jet Engines. Stereophonic sound. Microwave ovens. Television. All of these “modern advances” were part of General Motors’ *Parade of Progress* and were displayed in the famous 1940s Futurliner bus, which will be at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance March 10-12, 2006.

Twelve Futurliners were built by General Motors in the early 40s and they traveled coast to coast touting the latest technologies and dazzling audiences wherever they went. World War II temporarily halted the *Parade of Progress*, but the Futurliners were rebuilt in 1952 and the show resumed until 1956. The Futurliner last visited North Florida in 1954.

“This has got to be the most unique vehicle we have ever welcomed to Amelia – certainly the biggest,” says Bill Warner, founder and chairman. “For those who remember the *Parade of Progress* and the excitement of what the future held, it will be a real trip back in time. And, for those who weren’t around back then, you’ll realize how exciting it must have been to see these ideas come to life before your eyes. People come to Amelia to see the unique and the unusual, and the Futurliner is definitely both!”

The Futurliner that Amelia’s spectators will see is the tenth of twelve built and is owned by the National Automotive and Truck Museum in Auburn, Indiana. It is the only one restored to original condition right down to the large gold GM letters on the front nose section. Eight other Futurliners exist today; three were “converted” to mobile homes and the remaining ones are in disrepair, according to museum officials. Recently, at the famed Barrett-Jackson Auction in Scottsdale, Arizona, an enthusiastic bidder paid a whopping \$4 million for a Futurliner.

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The Futurliner is unlike any vehicle ever seen on Amelia's field of dreams. Weighing in at just over 26,000 pounds, it's 33 feet long and 13 feet tall. Power comes from a 302-cubic-inch, inline 6-cylinder engine that delivers a mere 145 horsepower. Top speed for the Futurliner is about 50 mph. With the exception of a modern air brake system for safety's sake, the museum's refurbishment team was committed to complete originality.

The 2006 Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance will be held March 10-12 on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> fairways of The Golf Club of Amelia Island adjacent to The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island. The featured marque will be Stanley Steamer and three-time Indy 500 winner Johnny Rutherford will be the honoree. The show's foundation has donated nearly \$1.4 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 10-12, 2006, 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.*

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