

Top 10 Automobiles

In 1996, the United States automobile industry celebrated its 100th anniversary. In observance, Chicago Tribune automobile writer Jim Mateja selected what he called the "10 That Made a Difference." These were the 10 vehicles that he thought had made the most significant contributions in their time and whose reputations live on:

1. The 1896 Duryea Motor Wagon. For the first time, more than one vehicle was manufactured from the same design (13 the first year).
2. The 1901 Curved Dash Olds. This was the first mass-produced vehicle (425 the first year)
3. The 1908 Ford Model T. Known as the Tin Lizzie, this car put America on the road.
4. The 1941 Willys Jeep. The jeep helped win World War II and proved to be the forerunner of the sport-utility vehicle so popular today.
5. The 1949 Volkswagen Beetle. This was "The People's Car," and in 1973 it overtook the Ford Model T as the world's best-selling car.
6. The 1953 Chevrolet Corvette.
7. The 1964 Pontiac GTO.
8. The 1964 Ford Mustang. The Mustang set a first-year record of 417,000 sales, and drew a cult following.
9. The 1984 Chrysler minivan. It replaced the station wagon as a people carrier.
10. The 1986 Ford Taurus. By 1992, it was the industry's top-selling car.

Whether you agree with Mateja's list or not, these were 10 cars that made a big difference in the auto world. Those we serve in Life Care, American Lifestyles and Life Care at Home will have fond recollections of many of these automobiles.

Like these cars, each of us is called to make a difference in our world -- those with whom we come in contact everyday. We are change agents. God has called us to be salt, light and ambassadors for Christ. He wants each of us to leave our workplace, family, neighborhood and church a better place than when we came.

--Beecher Hunter