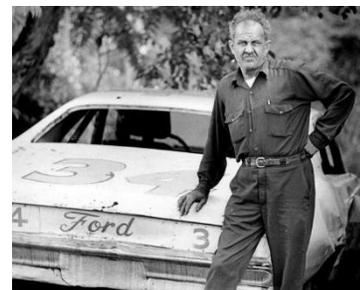


I began racing circle track stock cars when I was just 14, my Father knew about this and supported my efforts, as long as my Mother didn't find out. (She never did lol) My Dad introduced me to everyone that he could as it related to racing. In 1979, just 2 years after Richard Dreyfuss portrayed the character of Wendell Scott in the movie "Greased Lightning" my Dad and I found ourselves in Danville Virginia looking for race car parts. It was on this trip to Danville that I was fortunate enough to meet and become friends with Wendell Scott, and the entire Scott family. Wendell was a man who had experienced firsthand, the harshness of discrimination. I remember the first day that we met Wendell Scott, he left what he was doing at his auto repair business, put us in his old Cadillac, and took us on a tour of Danville. Wendell showed us the routes he used to outrun the Police back in the 40's & 50's when he ran moonshine. He showed me where the train wreck of old 97 happened, and other various points of interest around Danville. Wendell still had most of his old vintage race cars stored in his back lot, it was like touching history. We had lunch together and afterward we went to his home where we met Mary (his wife), and Sybil, (one of his youngest daughters). I grew up in a home where everyone was welcome. My mother and Father taught us to treat people the way we wanted them to treat us, and they showed us by example. My friendship with Wendell Scott carried on until his death in December of 1990, my friendship with his family continues today.

I would describe Wendell Scott as a man who accomplished more with less, a man of determination, and perseverance, a pioneer in his chosen sport, a man who could have held a grudge but didn't. I will always use Wendell Scott as the very definition of dignity, and character. Wendell Scott not only taught me a bunch about racing cars, but also how to treat people good even if they don't always return the favor.





### **Wendell Oliver Scott:**

Born August 29, 1921, in Danville, VA; died of spinal cancer, December 24, 1990; married Mary; children: Willie Ann, Wendell Jr., Franklin, Deborah, Cheryl, Sybil, and Michael.

### **Career:**

Taxi cab driver, 1939-43; U.S. Army, 1943-45; city service, 1945-49; Taxi cab driver/race driver, 1949-52; NASCAR driver, 1952-73; owner of Scott's Garage, 1949-90.

### **Awards and Accolades:**

Keys to numerous Cities; Virginia State Racing Championship and Southside Speedway Championship, 1959; 127 race wins; Jacksonville Speedway Championship, 1963; State of Florida Citation for Outstanding Achievements, 1965; honorary Lieutenant-Colonel-Aide-de-Camp, Alabama State Militia, 1970; Curtis Turner Memorial Achievement Award, 1971; Special Olympics Service Award, 1974; Schasfer Brewing Company Achievement Award, 1975; subject of the movie and novel, Greased Lightning, 1977; Bont Cultural Council Achievement Award, Greenville, SC, 1977; National Black Athletic Hall of Fame, 1977; Tobacco land 200 Award for the Finest NASCAR Driver, 1978; Fort Belvoir, VA Award for Outstanding Services Rendered, 1979; Black Rose Community Services Award, 1980; Muscular Dystrophy Association Award for Achievements, 1981; Virginia Skyline Girl Scout Council, Inc. Award for outstanding contributions, 1985; Proclamation of Atlanta, GA and Danville, VA, 1986; Wendell Scott Foundation and Scholarship Fund, 1986; Early Dirt Racers Driver of the Year Award, 1990; Wendell Scott Day, Danville, VA, 1990; mourned and honored by the General Assembly of Virginia, January 16, 1991. International Motorsports Hall of fame inductee, 1999; Subject of the book "Hard Driving 2008;" NASCAR hall of fame inductee, 2015. Characterized in the fictional movie "Cars 3" as Scott, 2017. Subject of the book "Racing against the odds" 2018.

## **Abbreviated Biography:**

After working as a taxi driver and a moonshine runner, Wendell Oliver Scott (August 28, 1921–December 23, 1990) began racing professionally late in the 1940s. Owners of the Danville raceway approached Scott about racing, with hopes of increasing African American attendance at their events. The officials had consulted with local authorities, who reported that Scott had several speeding offenses and that he was the one moonshine runner that they could not catch.

In 1959 Scott won the Sportsman Division championship at Richmond's Southside Speedway and NASCAR's Virginia State Sportsman Championship. In 1961, after nearly 200 wins, he decided to leave the Sportsman and Modified racing leagues and move to NASCAR's major division, the Grand National racing circuit.

Racing in nearly 500 NASCAR Grand National (later Sprint Cup) events, Scott earned more than \$180,000. He won one checkered flag, in Jacksonville, Florida, on December 1, 1963, but was denied the opportunity to publicly celebrate his only Grand National victory. At the conclusion of the race, Scott was scored a lap down and the second-place finisher, Buck Baker, was declared the winner. Scott contested the decision, and hours later NASCAR overturned the ruling, citing a scoring error. Although Scott never accepted the explanation, he handled the slight with dignity, as he did in scores of other instances of discrimination that he faced in his personal and professional life.

A racing accident in Talladega Alabama forced Scott to retire from competition in 1973. He finished his career with 147 top ten finishes in 495 Grand National starts. He was named to the National Sports Hall of Fame, the International Motorsports Hall of Fame, the National Motorsports Press Association Hall of Fame, and the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame.