

# Don "Brownie" Brown

The PVGP lost a great friend and co-founder when Don Brown passed away on May 26, 2009, he was 73 years young. For the past 27 years, thousands of individuals have volunteered their time and resources to make the Grand Prix a world-class event - few have had the lasting impact of Mr. Brown. Don served on the PVGP's Executive Committee for 20 years as Government Liaison and on the Operating Committee as a part of the race-side team. "Downtown Brown," as he was known to friends, thousands of Grand Prix volunteers, and the City of Pittsburgh, was the face of our event to many City officials and employees. He was also our Chief Starter.



Don's family was presented with one of the flags as they served as Honorary Starters and dropped the green flag to start the first race on Sunday, July 19. From left to right: Don's wife Ann, son David and his family

Don waves the green flag to open the Grand Prix's press conference at the Heinz History Center in June 2007. This was our 25th anniversary and Don played a key role in helping the organization achieve this milestone.

Don Brown presenting the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix Grand Marshal Award to the PVGP's Mike Connolly at the Start/Finish line in 2007.

Don Brown at opening ceremonies in 2005 with late Pittsburgh Mayor Bob O'Connor. Don served on the Executive Committee the PVGP's Government Liaison and could often be found at City Hall where he was on a first-name basis with City Council, the Mayor's office and city/county administration.



Don waves the green flag to officially start the vintage races through Schenley Park in 2006. He had been our Chief Starter since the Grand Prix began back in 1983. Don was an SCCA member and was active in local racing events.

Don, second from right, with PVGP volunteers at Walnut Street Car Show in Shadyside. His friend and longtime volunteer, Steve Snow is pictured at the far left. This image is believed to be from the late 1980's when Don was with Lamar Advertising.

Don Brown with volunteer Joy Balentine at the PVGP Kick-Off Rallye announcing competitors as they leave Craig Street in Oakland for parts unknown.

Don Brown with volunteer Don Baker at the Grand Prix 2008 Kick-Off Rallye at Geno's Restaurant in Lawrenceville. During Race Week you could always find "Brownie" at every event. His absence will be hurtfully felt this year.



Don with co-founder Alan Patterson and volunteer Beth Martin at the 2005 Check Presentation at the Wyndham Hotel in Oakland. To date, the Grand Prix has raised \$2.4 million for the Autism Society and Allegheny Valley School and Don was there every step of the way.

At the PVGP check presentation in 1989 Don is standing behind Myron Cope's right shoulder and next to Autism Society President Dan Torisky. Mr. Torisky and Mr. Cope were also co-founders of the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix.