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Vietnam veterans from left, Robert Middleton, Doug Broquet and Purple Heart recipient David Gurtowsky ride in Perry Smith's red 1971 Oldsmobile Cutlass convertible during filming at the Woodward Dream Cruise for Keith Famie's new documentary, "Detroit: The City of Hot Rods & Muscle Cars." (Photo by Kelsey Gale/Visionalist Entertainment Productions)

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Keith Famie and his Visionalist Entertainment Productions team filmed for the documentary "Detroit: The City of Hot Rods & Muscle Cars" during the Woodward Dream Cruise with Vietnam veterans on Aug. 20.

The new film that will capture the story of Detroit's car culture, now in production by Famie and his team, accelerated filming during the 2022 Woodward Dream Cruise.

The two-hour documentary film is a historical tribute to Detroit's foundation in automation and its evolution, tracking down the original enthusiast, the first shade tree mechanics and car collectors. The love of steel and speed transcends generations, and it also defies the constraints of gender and background. The documentary is a celebration of the unique Detroit hot rod and muscle car community and how Motor City iron has circumnavigated the globe and shaped world culture, according to a press release.

Through this segment, the film introduced the Woodward Dream Cruise which will take the audience down memory lane on what it was like to cruise down Woodward in the 60s and 70s and today. The historical state police coordinated ten car procession was led by a 1965 Ford State Police cruiser escort with 20-year-old Troy from Rainbow Connection. Troy was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia (AML) in June 2021.

The scene filmed on Aug. 20 is part of a bigger story in the context of the documentary about the significance of Vietnam veterans' love for hot rods and muscle cars.

The main focus of this procession is Perry Smith's 1971 Oldsmobile Cutlass convertible with three Vietnam veterans inside: Douglas Broquet, Robert Middleton, and Purple Heart recipient David Gurtowsky. To stay in beat with the music of the 60s and 70s that drove so much of the car culture, well-known drummer Johnny "Bee" Badanjek played a drum solo from "Radar Love" from the back of a Hot Rod pickup truck.

A group of Vietnam veterans on Woodward Avenue saluted as the procession went by, including Paul Palazzolo, Mike Sand, Gary Hansen, Jim Suhay, and Ray Nadolski.

"Our Vietnam generation grew up with fathers who came back from WWII with a newfound love and passion for taking the 1932 Ford flathead and turning them into hot rods," said Famie.

"This exposure made for a natural transition for the young Vietnam veterans growing up with their fathers to embrace their love and passion for the muscle car as well as the hot rod."

The film will feature many familiar faces both nationally and locally from Detroit to Los Angeles and several places in between. The film will premiere in June of 2023 at the Henry Ford Museum in support of five Michigan children's charities before it is launched on Detroit Public Television/PBS and it will also premiere in Los Angeles.

For more information and how to be featured as a supporter, visit <https://detroitmusclecarfilm.com>.