

Member Featured Car of the Month

Ron Ramer's '52' MG TD

By Ron Ramer

Well, it's my TD only because my name's on the title. I feel it still belongs to the late Lt Col Don Thomas, a longtime member of The British Car Club of Greater Cincinnati. Col Thomas, Don, passed Dec 1, 2024 age 91, after a long and decorated career as a Green Beret in the Army Special Forces, a graduate of University of Kentucky, an airport ambassador at CVG Terminal 1, and the owner of Alpine Imports in Elsmere KY.

Survivors of Don include his daughter Rene Lynn McPhedron, who escorted Don to many Club events. Rene reached out to me upon his passing about his TD, and I agreed to purchase it with the understanding it's still Don's! I would be the curator.

Rene also donated many of Don's other collections to the British Transportation Museum, including hundreds of new in-box spark plugs, new old-stock MGA parts, an MG Midget RH drive body less engine, and 12 other engines, looking for a British car.

I intend to maintain Don's TD in running condition, without restoration. Don wanted it to be a driver, not a show piece. It has patina. Chipped paint, a wrong-color grille (it's supposed to match interior color), and some rust on the chrome wheel caps. I've replaced the carpets, cleaned the seats, and added LED bulbs after a scary near rear-ender. Hearing squealing tires behind you when you're slowing for a turn suggests that driver didn't see your blinking turn signal in the sunshine. Litezup makes a very nice LED upgrade kit that include a flasher unit to solve that problem.



The Octagon News March 2026

About \$150. It replaces the original bulbs in their same sockets. And you can see the TD's lights now!

I also added pedal extensions so my wife can reach the pedals (which also means now I can't drive it).. The extensions are available in 1 inch and 3 inch models, and bolt right onto the brake and clutch arms. Just a simple 9/16 bolt you need to do with one hand, since you can't reach into the footwell space with two arms! Train a young child in sockets and ratchets!

So you won't see this TD in any car shows. There are some excellent examples around, some fully restored.

This one is for Lt Col Don Thomas, Ret, US Army Special Forces

