

FUN FACTS:

Were any 1956 Corvettes built with 6-cylinder engines? Although seven Blue Flame machines emerged from the St. Louis plant in 1955, by 1956 the 6-cylinder was strictly a thing of Corvettes' past.

Did Ford's Thunderbird save Corvette from extinction? Yes, absolutely. Chevrolet was about to discontinue the Corvette at the end of the 1955 model run, but after witnessing Ford's sale of 16,155 Thunderbirds in 1955, General Motors decided to keep fighting and gave Corvette a reprieve. It was not so much a case of profiteering, but rather a matter of corporate pride.

Although certain elements of the chassis and suspension were carried over from 1955, the 1956 Corvette received an all-new body and interior. Naturally, the launch was a big event, so what better place to hold it than the Waldorf Astoria Hotel Grand Ballroom, the same place the first Corvette debuted in 1953.