Why Ford’s got ‘it’

By ROBERT OSBORNE

During the eras that bridged Henry Ford and Harrison Ford came my favorite Ford of all, the movies’ long-distance runner, Glenn Ford. Voted the No. 1 male box office attraction of 1958, Ford has added class, stature and that indefinable “it” factor to so many memorable movies — “Gilda,” “The Big Heat,” “The Blackboard Jungle,” “3:10 to Yuma,” “The Courtship of Eddie’s Father” and “Superman” among them.

But even the less famous films of his — “Cowboy,” “Interrupted Melody,” “Trial,” “The Mating of Millie,” “Dear Heart,” “A Stolen Life” and some 97 others — each owe a huge debt of gratitude to this man for the talent, energy and seamless acting he contributed to every film in which he appeared.

It’s virtually impossible for someone to be in the public eye for more than a few years and not wear out his or her welcome, but Glenn Ford has never been.

For his endurance but also for always having traveled the high road, for his respect and love movies.

He deserves our admiration not only for the work he’s done and for his endurance but also for always having traveled the high road during that remarkable seven-decade career.

Happy 90th, Glenn. We salute you and all the keepers of your flame.

AS VARIETY CELEBRATES ITS 100TH BIRTHDAY, THEY SALUTE ANOTHER HOLLYWOOD LEGEND ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY.