

CH Red Hot Momma

RETIRES AT SAINT LOUIS NATIONAL CHARITY

Editor's Note: The following speech was read by announcer Brian Lookabill Thursday, Sept. 24, 2015 at the Saint Louis National Charity Horse Show.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the St Louis National Charity Horseshow is about crowning champions. While crowning those champions takes just a few days, the making of those champions takes years.

The making of one champion very familiar to this show began in the year 2004 when Bob Mullenax, of Little Rock Ark., was shopping to buy his first American Saddlebred prospect.

"But her neck is too short and her ears are too long," Bob was told when he showed her picture to his friends.

Yet Bob saw something special in the filly and made the purchase of his first show horse. The filly's name? Red Hot Momma. Tonight we celebrate the remarkable show career and the retirement of an amazing champion, CH Red Hot Momma.

Please welcome to the arena six time world champion, CH Red Hot Momma affectionately known as Girlfriend. Presented by Carrie Kessler of Little Rock, Ark.

No other horse and rider team has won as many classes and championships here at the St Louis National Charity Horse Show as Girlfriend and Carrie have won. In fact, they have been setting the standard in the Working Western division since their first championship win in 2008.

Continuing to win and dominate their field, in 2012, the team achieved the mare's CH designation. This achievement actually changes her name to CH Red Hot Momma, a coveted designation in the Saddlebred industry.

Along with six world championships, and her CH designation Girlfriend has also been a crowd pleaser, earning the Horse World People's Choice award several times.

A very important member of this successful team has been trainer Carol Jones, of American Acres, in Little Rock, Ark. Carol Jones has been training horses for over 30 years. She has earned 40 World Championship titles, 11 of those have been won by American Saddlebreds here at the Saint Louis National Charity. "Carol has been an amazing trainer for Girlfriend. We could not have accomplished all that we have without her," says Mullenax. Carol says "Girlfriend is the horse that dreams are made of for owner, trainer and rider."

Girlfriend has helped set the standard for the Working Western Pleasure class. This class requires the highest level of training for western Saddlebred horses. Horses in this class are judged on quality of movement and manners at a walk, jog and lope. After being judged on the rail each horse must work individually negotiating a course of complex maneuvers and obstacles designed to test the horses' athletic ability and handling as well as the riders' skill.

We would like to extend a very special thank you to the Thompsons and Saddle & Bridle Magazine for supporting the Working Western Pleasure class "I have never shown such a talented horse, or one that is so willing to perform the course of obstacles", says Carrie Kessler. Carrie has been showing Girlfriend since her first Championship win.

"The decision to retire Girlfriend has not been an easy one", according to Bob Mullenax. "She has exceeded our wildest expectations from the very beginning. At her first show here in St. Louis, I told Carol and Carrie that I would be happy if we just got in the top 10. As the announcer called out the placings from 10th to 1st place, the excitement grew. When he announced my horse as the winner I could hardly contain myself and ran out to center ring to get in the picture. I didn't care that I was in my dirty clothes from hours of grooming my horse. Chris Thompson of Saddle and Bridle asked me if I knew what we had just accomplished and I was so green I didn't even know who he was."

He went on to say, "Winning that championship and every one since then have been the most exciting moments of my life. It is time now to give Girlfriend the retirement she deserves. While it is tempting to continue to show her, it is also rewarding to allow this special horse to end her showing career as a champion."



Carrie Kessler showed CH Red Hot Momma to six Saddle & Bridle Working Western Pleasure World Championship titles at Saint Louis National in their career together.

If you ask what his retirement plans are for Girlfriend, you will see a twinkle in Bob's eyes as he tells you about the pasture he is building for her on the rolling hills of his 250 acre estate in Little Rock known as the Pine Hill Ranch.

"Girlfriend will have a special place at the Pine Hill Ranch and may even someday participate in weddings that will take place there", says Mullenax. Construction of the greeting center and offices of the ranch is almost complete and construction of the barns and covered arena will begin in 2016. The Pine Hill Ranch will be a world class training facility and will always be home to CH Red Hot Momma, aka "Girlfriend".

"Owning and showing this amazing horse has been a dream come true, and has been more rewarding than I ever could have imagined", says Mullenax. And to think, it all began with a little bay mare whose neck was too short and ears were too long."