

AMERICAN ROAD HORSE AND PONY ASSOCIATION RAYMOND SHIVELY HALL OF FAME

Steve Crabtree

Editor's note: The following speech was read by announcer Peter Doubleday, Thursday Aug. 24, 2017 at the World's Championship Horse Show.

Every year Hillview Stables, under the direction of Steve Crabtree, represent the road horse division at the Kentucky State Fair World's Championship Horse Show with quality horses to ensure the road horse division will continue to grow and develop. Steve's passion and enthusiasm for road horses has spanned decades and he is always on the lookout for quality Standardbred to represent the breed.

Steve Crabtree also is a USEF certified judge and has provided his judging expertise at many shows across the world, including the Kentucky State Fair World Championship Horse Show, The American Royal, South African shows, and recently the Royal Canadian Fair.

With the utmost respect he is nominated to the ARHPA Hall of Fame. He has been and will continue to be a driving force in the continued growth of the road horse and pony industry. He has proven that his love and passion for the road horse and pony breeds have been the focus of his career and has shared his passion with many along his path of success.

Steve Crabtree from Elizabeth, Kentucky, has been showing and training quality road horses and ponies since 1967. He has had top ponies such as Crew Chief, Lynn Acres Colonel, and Say It Loud. His knowledge in training road horses has developed these champion road horses: Despite It All (two time Open World's Champion under saddle and RWCC under saddle), Scatman Du (three time World Champion to wagon and 3 time World's Champion of Champions Roadster to Wagon), Where's Ruben (World's Champion Youth Road Horse), Slick Guy (Reserve World's Champion Youth Road Horse), Kitty Wells, Stanley Steamer, Wildwood Flower, Pure Poison, The Man's Man, Mountain Beach, Condoleeza, Yocky, Identity Thief, Rumor Has It, and the 2016 USTA World's Champion Finnmaster.



Larry Jenkins (l), Raymond Shively and Suzanne Crabtree joined Steve Crabtree in center ring for his induction into the American Road Horse and Pony Association Hall of Fame Thursday evening in Freedom Hall. Photo by Howard Schatzberg

He is a versatile road horse and pony trainer who has trained world's champion road horses in open, amateur, youth and under saddle exemplifying his talent as a hall of fame trainer. He has also provided leadership as president of the American Road Horse and Pony Association from 2012-2015, and is currently providing his experience of the breed on the USEF Road Horse committee.

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Joe Pate Johnston

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When it comes to great horsemen, some are always in the headlines and some do it quietly; Joe Johnston of Statesboro, Georgia was one who has rather quietly had an important impact on the roadster horse industry for many years. Joe was known to have a "great eye" for a horse and could quickly recognize a "diamond in the rough" as he found some of the great road horse prospects of our industry and in his own way nurtured them into great show horses.

Horses were a love that started early in Joe's life, and he soon focused his attention on Standardbred roadster horses. For over four decades you would find the amateur horseman Joe Johnston in the winner's circle at horse shows throughout the Southeast. Joe knew how to put a horse in the ring turned out and looking great and he knew how to show whatever horse he was driving to the horse's best advantage.

Joe and his wife Margaret Ann had three daughters that often traveled with him to horse shows. Johnston was a very successful businessman in Statesboro in both real estate and insurance. He served in many leadership roles for his community including the Chamber of Commerce, Development Authority and First Bulloch Bank. Other interests included raising champion bird dogs and he served on the Georgia Field Trial Association Board.

However, his friends knew that late in the afternoon you would find Joe at his family's Lakeview Farm enjoying his passion of training great roadster horses. Some of the many champions that were shown under his red, white, and gold silk colors include Paul H, Wild Cedar, Hustlin' Hannah, Okey Doke, Touch O' Class, Secret Agent, Yankee Girl, On Time, Prime Time, and his final champion Special Rose.

Joe Johnston passed away in 2009, but his love for a great Road Horse is still remembered today.



Larry Jenkins (l) made the presentation for the posthumous induction of Joe Pate Johnston. He was joined in center ring by Si Waters, a longtime friend and associate of Johnston, and Jessie Taylor, granddaughter of Joe Pate Johnston. Photo by Howard Schatzberg