

# WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP HORSE SHOW HALL OF FAME

## DAVE BECKER

*Editor's Note: Announcer Peter Doubleday read the following speech Saturday, Aug. 29, 2015 at the World's Championship Horse Show.*



*Dave Becker was joined by family and friends for his induction into the World's Championship Horse Show Hall of Fame.*

A lifelong horseman from a family of horsemen, Dave Becker has spent his career developing great people and great horses and through his faith in Jesus Christ has shared the American Saddlebred with people in countries all around the world through his mission work. Married to the love of his life, Lois, for 50 years and father to David Jr., Michael, Dale and Elizabeth Becker Schriener, Dave is so thankful to have the American Saddlebred and family in his life.

"This is the greatest horse and I've been fortunate enough to spend my life working with the American Saddlebred so with that comes with a huge responsibility," said Dave. "It's the horses that makes the man, not the other way around. Our horses do what they were bred to do. No other breed can imitate our horses. The American Saddlebred is the greatest horse on the face of the earth.

"I loved my horses, still love them. They kept me going, they clothed my children and provided for my family's needs. To be successful it takes the whole team, the horse, the owner and the trainer. I've been fortunate to have worked with some great people and horses. I can't thank Tom Galbreath enough for the opportunity I had with him. We had a lot of really nice horses and did some great things like selling Sultan's Santana for a million dollars at auction. That was an awesome thing for this business."

Dave worked for many top people over the years, including his first teacher, his father Ed Becker. Some of the other trainers and farms he worked for include Maddox Whitley, Art Simmons, Spring Valley Farms, where he worked with his brother Bill, Four S Farm, Silver Lining Stables, Donna Moore and Leslie Lane Farm.

The list of world's champion performers is endless: The Contender, Callaway's New Look, Stonewall Parfait, Strike Command, Gold Treat, Surefire, Meadow Glitter, Starheart Sensation, Here Am I, Beacon Hill, Dow Jones, Grand Slam, Hayfield's American Beauty, Vanity's Jewel, Mr. B, Kentucky Wildcat, French Commander, The Phoenix, Summer Santana, Santana's Charm, Springtime Santana, Santana Santana Dana, Sinatra, Comedienne, Oh By George, Gift Of Love, Set The Style, Man Alive, Finest Hour, French Wine, Rose Of York, Blackberry Winter, Worthy Winner, Talky Talky, Blue Chipper, Denmark's Grand Duchess, S.S. Music Man, Denmark's Grand Melody, Kentuckianna, Starlike Sultan, Sultan's Earth Angel, and Mirror Mirror, among others.

"My greatest accomplishment was working with young people," said Dave. "I had 11 juvenile world's championships with nine different horses. I am so proud to have worked with many great young folks, people like Melissa Moore, Leslie Arbury [Bennett], Craig and Keith Kurz.

"My greatest personal accomplishment was with the World's Champion Five-Gaited Mare You're The One. She was quite a project so I was very happy to get that done. Of course, none of this would have been possible without family. When I won the Five-Gaited World's Grand Championship with New Look they interviewed me and I honored my mother and father. Without their sacrifices I couldn't have accomplished anything. My father was the finest man I've ever known."

For his success in Freedom Hall and his contributions to the American Saddlebred and its exhibitors in and out of the show ring, Dave Becker is the 2015 inductee into the World's Championship Horse Show Hall of Fame.