

CH Sunken Treasure Retires

Editor's note: The following speech was read by Peter Fenton during the retirement ceremony Thursday, August 24, 2017 at the World's Championship Horse Show.



As Mary and Evan Orr place the championship roses on "Jack's" shoulders preparing for his final victory pass I'd like to tell you a little more about this star.

Fifteen different riders had their time in the saddle with Jack, amassing 88 victory passes between 2002 and 2016. Fittingly, his final show was last year at the North Carolina State Championship Charity where McGee swept the adult gaited pleasure division.

His path to stardom began all those years ago at the UPHA Chapter 5 Show. His second owner, Becky Taggart, remembers it well.

"The first time I saw Sunken Treasure was at UPHA Chapter 5 when Richard Davis showed him for the first time. My trainer, Jack Magill, was showing a horse in the same class and stopped to ask me how he was doing in the large class. I told him there was only one horse in the ring and he was not on it. We bought Sunken Treasure that day.

"Little Ricky," as we called him, was quite the patoot as a kid. He liked to buck and jump at the most unexpected times. We had our highs and lows but he won his first World's Championship with Mandy Martin riding him for us. It was a first World's Championship that day for all of us. He has gone on to make me very proud to have been a part of his journey."

His storied journey has included 11 world's titles for 6 different riders. World's Champion of Champions, World's Champion, Reserve World's Champion of Champions and National Champion are just a few of titles. In addition to those Louisville and Kansas City triumphs he enjoyed victory passes from all the major venues: Lexington, Midwest, Asheville, St. Louis, Shelbyville, J.D. Massey, ASHAV, Blowing Rock, Big D, Oklahoma, and many more. More importantly, Jack served as a great teacher for all his riders. Because he wasn't a push button robot, he kept every rider thinking and working to stay one step ahead of him.

Again, serving as a teacher, Jack also represented the American Saddlebred one year at Devon when Kenny Wheeler put together a special five-gaited class where Hunter trainers were invited to show gaited horses. Hunt Tosh had the honor of that ride and he went away with a big smile on his face, having had the chance to feel the power of an American Saddlebred racking up a storm. Jack also served the breed with his representation at

the Kentucky Horse Park's 2014 Bryerfest where thousands of adoring youth and their parents were drawn to him.

This seemed to be Jack's purpose in life, teaching others. He wasn't born into royalty. He was more like a blue-collar worker who showed up every time he was asked to, always giving 110 percent. Those are the endearing qualities that made him so special to his final trainers, Evan and Mary Orr who got him from trainer Wyatt DeHart and owner Lindsay Shields.

"Jack has been like the guy in the office who's been there and done that," said Evan Orr. "If you come in and say, 'I won a world's championship,' he says, 'yeah so what, I've won six.' He's been a mainstay for us. He's been so great as a teacher because if you don't do it properly, he's not going to do it for you. He's also the truest slow gaiting and racking horse. We've taken good care of him and he's taken good care of us."

"He's a shining example of the underdog with incredible work ethic," added Mary Orr. "He's never been the biggest or the fanciest in the class but he always gives it 100 percent. He's made a lot of riders for us because if you don't do your part he will remind you. He's just the best teacher ever!"

The little horse that could also left a lasting impact on those who had the honor of showing him. Corbin Bumgarner, who showed Jack to his final world's title had this to say. "It was the most fun ever, but it was hard too because you have to do things Jack's way. I learned a lot from Jack. I learned to do it his way (most of the time anyway). I learned that I have to listen to Miss Mary. Racking Jack was like floating, floating fast right above the ground."

Abigail Tabor remembers, "Riding Jack was one of the most exciting things I've ever done. He had so much spirit and always gave his all. He made me want to be a better rider. He taught me patience and that you have to listen to your horse."

And then there is McGee Bosworth who teamed with Jack more than any other rider. "Jack will go down as one of my most favorite horses to show. I got Jack when I was only 13 years old. I had absolutely no idea what I was doing as it pertained to showing. Jack was (and is) the best teacher I've ever had. Quite honestly, I think Jack taught me how to show. Even though he did his very best to buck you off in the practice ring, once his feet hit the show arena, he always had your back.



Evan and Mary Orr and McGee Bosworth headed to the outgate of Freedom Hall with CH Sunken Treasure after an emotional retirement ceremony in center ring Thursday evening.



Evan and Mary Orr and the Bosworth family, McGee, Julie and Allen, had a wonderful partnership with CH Sunken Treasure and he is truly a member of the Bosworth and High Caliber Stables families.

"I always said Jack is like a little sports car; he quite literally zips around the arena. While flying at the rack, Jack was agile enough that you could go anywhere you wanted. One of my absolute favorite things about Jack is that he has that old school kind of slow gait and rack. Once he gets into gear he literally hunkers down in the back like a speed boat and goes flying off.

"Jack taught me to appreciate winning and how to learn from losses. He taught me that sometimes the best rides are in the classes you don't win. He's not only been a teacher to me, but a teacher to so many other riders that have come through High Caliber. He has taught little girl after little girl to love and show a gaited horse.

"While I'm so sad that my time in the show ring with Jack has come to an end, I will always be grateful for the wins, losses and lessons. I cannot thank Mary, Evan or my parents enough for affording me the opportunity to have such a special horse in my life.

"Jack, I hope you enjoy your last trip on the green shavings. It's always been one of your favorite places!"

As we prepare for Jack to make one last trip around Freedom Hall, McGee, Allen and Julie Bosworth would like to thank Jack's support team for all they have done for him, including caretakers Rafael Valasquez and Pablo Guido, farrier Gordon Ingram, vets John Cummins and James Talbot and chiropractor Carol Addison.

Now ladies and gentlemen, let's show our appreciation for a horse that has done so much for so many. His time in the show ring will not be forgotten, especially by those who learned some of their greatest lessons aboard the little red horse.

Let's hear it for World's Champion of Champions CH Sunken Treasure!