

# Roy C. Werner Inducted Into Saint Louis National Charity Hall Of Fame

Born on September 17, 1922, Roy Werner passed away on Oct. 18, 2015; 30 days after his 93rd birthday. Tonight we have Roy's widow Judy Werner and his family and friends who are here to celebrate Roy's induction into the St. Louis National Charity Horse Show Hall Of Fame. Each can attest to the fact that Roy was a great influence on their life.

A successful businessman and a lover of baseball and fishing, he is honored tonight for his often unknown impact on the horse show world and the American Saddlebred breed. Roy was attracted to horses at an early age and that pattern continued throughout his long life. In the 50s and 60s one of the largest horse shows in the country was the Boys Town Horse Show. It was put on by the St. Louis Exhibitors Association (a group of businessmen who used the show to raise money for the benefit of Boys Town of Missouri).

Roy served as the group's treasurer for several years and as president for three years. It was during that time that he became friends with Fred Holekamp who was well known in the horse show world and stood several American Saddlebred stallions at his farm in rural Missouri. Fred was a student of pedigrees and gave Roy his first taste of the challenges that go along with breeding of champion show horses. Fred would often tell Roy it was a "crap shoot"; something Roy never forgot and used himself later in life.

When Roy married Judy in 1975 he and his son Tom were playing polo twice a week as members of the St. Louis Polo Club and the horses living in the stable at their suburban St. Louis County home were nine polo ponies. Roy made the mistake of asking Judy if she would like to have a horse to show and it did not take long before the horses under the Werner ownership included several American Saddlebreds trained by the late Don Hulse.

One of those horses was a mare named Miss Boomerang and Judy expressed an interest in owning her dam. Roy agreed and that was the beginning of what turned into Redwing Saddlebred Farm.

When the St. Louis National Charity Horse Show was revived in 1977 Roy served on the first board of directors and was the chair of the committee formed to write the first set of bylaws. The year 1977 also the year that a bay weanling filly, Sultan's Dianna, caught Judy's eye at the famed Ruxer Farms in Jasper, Ind.

Roy made several attempts to buy the filly and each offer was rejected. At the American Royal in November, while out to dinner with Alvin and Hilda Ruxer, Roy made what he said was his final offer and again the answer was no. What Judy did not know was that Roy had purchased the filly in September during the St. Louis National Charity Horse Show.

That Christmas Roy presented Judy with a beautifully wrapped jewelry box and what she thought were pearls turned out to be a picture of Sultan's Dianna and a note simply said "She's yours". Sultan's Dianna grew up to be a spectacular five-gaited mare and attracted many offers to purchase her. Roy's answer was always the same "It's Judy's decision but she does not have to sell her Christmas gift".

In the following years the broodmare band kept growing and Roy's polo playing was winding down. The stable on their property was not set up for foaling mares so the decision was made to move the mares to the Werner farm in Waterloo, Ill. During foaling season Judy would drive over after dinner, spend the night on a cot in the foaling barn and return home about the time Roy was leaving for work.

When calculating the mileage for taxes Roy realized that Judy had made 138 round trips to the farm so the consideration of moving to that farm started to become reality. It also became a reality that it would be nice to have all the horses at one place-so a training barn was built, a cattle barn was turned into a foaling barn and the farm house built in the 1800s was remodeled. Roy managed all the construction and Redwing Saddlebred Farm was in business.

In 1980 while on a visit to Ruxer Farm the Ruxer Farm stallion manager Bill Caldwell showed Judy a weanling stud colt out of the multi-titled Glenview's Radiance and by Supreme Sultan. The colt had just been weaned and, while at the time she had no desire to own a stallion, Judy listened while Bill talked about the colt's remarkable bloodlines. The next day she told Roy about the colt and he asked if she had an interest in buying him. Her answer was "I don't know" (which Roy took as a "yes"). He called Alvin Ruxer and two days later Judy and Roy went to Ruxer Farms and personally hauled the colt, named Radiant Sultan, home.

By the time Radiant Sultan was three years old Roy had retired and his new job became running the farm and Radiant Sultan's breeding career. Radiant Sultan



*Designed, at 21 years of age, was as handsome as ever and has been such an important part of the Redwing Farm breeding program. It was only fitting that he should be part of the ceremony to posthumously induct Roy Werner into the Saint Louis National Charity Horse Show Hall of Fame. Bob Brison led the stallion and joined Judy Werner in center ring.*

proved to be a top breeding horse; siring two World's Grand Champion Fine Harness horses (Foxfire's Prophet and Radiant Success) plus a long list of winning offspring.

The year 1983 was a tragic one for Redwing Farm. Sultan's Dianna, at the age of six, foundered severely. The veterinarians felt she could not be saved and the insurance company had been alerted; the mare was to be euthanized the next day. That night Roy suggested that Judy call a veterinarian who had written an article about the work farrier Burney Chapman was doing to save foundered horses. The call was made and the next afternoon Roy was at the airport to pick up Chapman. That schedule continued every four weeks for three years.

While losing the mare to the show ring was devastating, her value to the breed through offspring had always been part of the plan. The American Saddlebred Horse Association had just allowed embryo transfer and a young veterinarian in Columbia, [Mo.] named Rob Foss was starting his clinic and specializing in embryo transfer. Rob's uncle Dr. Alan Raun mentioned this to Roy and once again Roy made the call; Sultan's Dianna's next career as a broodmare started.

In March of 1994 a customer called the farm and said she wanted to breed her mare to Caramac but the only way she could get a breeding was to buy three. She wondered if Redwing Farm would buy one of the three. Roy's answer was "yes" but Judy was not to know and the next month he gave the Caramac breeding to Judy as an anniversary gift. This time the note inside the box said "This breeding was not cheap - use it wisely."

The result of the Sultan's Dianna x Caramac breeding was a bay colt who was given the name Designed. It quickly became apparent that this was a special animal. Designed started his winning as a two-year-old in harness and ended it in 2002 after winning at the World's Championship Horse Show in August, St. Louis National Charity in September and making the victory pass at the American Royal; all with Judy in the saddle.

While his show career was impressive it is his breeding career that is leaving its mark on the breed. He is the sire of numerous World's Champions and his get win at all the major horse shows, including the St. Louis National Charity Show, with two of his offspring winning classes last night. Designed joins us tonight for this ceremony because without Roy there would be no Designed!