

REMEMBERING ...

We remember those, both horse and human, that have recently passed.
They will forever hold a special place in our hearts.

BY DIANA DAVIDSON, BOB FUNKHOUSER, KATHERINE HANSIL & LEEANN MIONE
PHOTOS BY BROOKE JACOBS, RICK OSTEEN, CAITLIN REASON, H. LEON SARGENT, HOWIE SCHATZBERG & TERRY YOUNG



As just a four-year-old, And The Beat Goes On made his first Amateur Park Harness World Championship victory pass in 1999 with Iann Fu Longenecker.



And The Beat Goes On and Iann Fu Longenecker won a record number of Amateur Park Harness World Championships for Dragonsmeade Farm. His son Dragonsmeade Axios won the same title in 2014 to add to his legacy.



In retirement, And The Beat Goes On loved to show off for anyone who came to Dragonsmeade Farm as he did on this snowy Kentucky day during the 2010 AMHA Convention.

AND THE BEAT GOES ON

Simply Maserati x JL's Deer Sal

1995 – 2021

Named for a hit song from the 1960s, And The Beat Goes On rocketed to stardom in the late 1990s. The captivating black stallion, sired by Simply Maserati and out of JL's Deer Sal, was bred by Jim Hangle and Tracy Fietz. Foaled on April 10, 1995, And The Beat Goes On made everyone take notice when he charged through the gate in his show ring debut at 1998 Morgan Medallion on his way to making the Three-Year-Old Park Harness victory pass with Rock Walker. He went on to capture his first two world championship victories two months later as the Oklahoma audience cheered on the athletic and brilliant performer.

The Fu Family of Dragonsmeade coveted the youngster known as Bud and added him to the long list of champions under the ownership of Dragonsmeade Farm in 1999. He returned to Santa Barbara in August of 1999 to debut with Iann Fu Longenecker in victorious fashion in Morgan Medallion Regional's Amateur Park Harness under the direction of Rock Walker and Robert Hughes. Their triumphant performance as the 1999 Amateur Park Harness World Champions was the first of a record four spotlight victory passes.

His show ring accolades were just phase one. Bud was certainly not a one-hit wonder as he stamped his get with the charisma that set him apart in the show ring. His long list of Oklahoma winners include: DMH Back In Black, Dragonsmeade Carnaros, Queen's Upbeat CH, Uppercase Innovation, RLH Night Strike, The Piano Man GCH, Dragonsmeade Days Go On CH, Dragonsmeade Well Played, Dragonsmeade Black Dragon GCH, Dragonsmeade Muse, and Dragonsmeade Eltanin.

His son Dragonsmeade Axios (out of HVK Obsidian) has certainly followed in Bud's footsteps for Dragonsmeade. He also teamed with Iann Fu Longenecker to win the Amateur Park Harness World Championship, making the spotlight drive in 2014. Axios is the sire of the next generation of world champions for Dragonsmeade Farm.

Iann Fu Longenecker announced the passing of And The Beat Goes On on January 28, 2021. "Bud was a once in a lifetime horse. He will always be missed. We watched him win his first class, the Three-Year-Old Park Harness, at the Morgan Medallion. Bud exploded into the show world that day, and went on to win the World Champion Futurity Park Harness Three-Year-Old and the World Champion Park Harness Three-Year-Old. In 1999 he won the Amateur Park Harness as a four-year-old. He went on to win nearly every park harness class he showed in.

"To us, he was always the gangly, beautiful, superbly athletic goofball who would relax his way through warm-ups, then dazzle under the lights in the ring with an audience watching him. He loved the crowd in the show ring, and in retirement he loved people watching him trot and flag his tail through his paddock. A true Morgan show horse in every sense. Bud lives on through his progeny."

CH CALVIN HOBBS

Seventh Heaven x Duncannon Katie Coy

1999 – 2021

Canadian bred CH Calvin Hobbs debuted in 2003 winning the UPHA Road Pony Classic with Andrew Carss at Indy Charity. That was the beginning of a magical career for the sporty Hackney who would take drivers to a total of 87 wins including two world's grand champion, four world's champion of champions, three world's champion and four national champion titles.

With Chris Gantley in the bike, Calvin completed his four-year-old season as the UPHA Classic Grand Champion, World's Champion of Champions Junior Road Pony and World's Champion Four-Year-Old Road Pony for owners Steve and LeeAnn Golden. That winter, Lynda Freseth went to see the pony. She knew he was the one as Gantley brought him out in longlines. Freseth likened him to a "shrunk up road horse. He cover the ground just like a road horse but



Both Lynda and Andy Freseth shared in CH Calvin Hobbs' success. In addition to training the grand pony from 2004 – 2014, both Lynda (2012) and Andy (2005) drove him to a World's Grand Champion Road Pony title.

then he had the most beautiful place to put his head. He was a grand pony for three owners while he was at Hollow Haven.”

Calvin Hobbs called Hollow Haven home from 2004 until 2014. He was part of Andy Freseth's string as Lynda “did not fool much with the road ponies.” Andy guided the pony to his first world's grand championship title in 2005 for his first Hollow Haven owner Mary Gise. Gise would be in the bike for the 2006 season taking home 13 of those career wins, including the Louisville roses from the amateur championship. Kevin Ingram was Calvin's next partner under the ownership of Jim Dellinger. The team had an incredible record for the five years they were together in the amateur division.

In 2012, Andy Freseth returned to the bike for a few shows and then at Blue Ridge Lynda was called to catch drive since Andy had The Plaza, also for the Dellingers, in the very next class. It went so well, or maybe it was that Lynda had so much fun, that she had the driving duties in Freedom Hall a few weeks later. Lynda would drive Calvin to both the Open Road Pony 50-52 inches win as well as the world's grand championship title on Saturday night. Calvin is thought to be one of the few horses or ponies to have won two world's grand champion titles for a husband and wife team.

Nancy Leigh Fisher purchased Calvin right after Louisville that year. Her daughter, Alice Unger-Singh, was next in the bike in 2013. She probably gave the most insight into his personality describing him as a “barely contained explosion, not a scary explosion, but one that would take you on the best rocket ride ever.” One of her “favorite memories of him are trail riding around Hollow Haven. One time we saw some deer in the distance and he snorted at them and then we continued on our way.” For as game as he was, she will always remember him “in the stall as was the sweetest boy, appreciative of all the attention you were willing to give him.”

In the late summer of 2014 he joined the Majestic Oaks family with both George Burgy and Jayne Romano serving as owners. Jessi McCurry showed him at Asheville Lions Club in her under saddle debut at the age of 15! Mitchel Denham owned him for a short stint the summer of 2015



before Josh Greer came to own him. Greer was proud to have “one of the best ones ever” to live out his final years at his farm.

CH HARLEM'S SANTA FE

CH Harlem Town x The Lady Prefers

1999 – 2021

Bred by Tim and Joan O'Brien, CH Harlem's Santa Fe was destined for stardom. The striking black mare was by the legendary CH Harlem Town and out of a mare named The Lady Prefers, a full sister to the seven-time world's champion CH Our Canary Diamond. Santa Fe's family tree is full of world's champion after world's champion but the most interesting fact is that her second dam Valley's Delta Dawn and the stallion she was bred to, The Manipulator, were both world's champion fine harness horses in their own right.

James Nichols remembers “selecting her primarily for her bottom side breeding as a two-year-old, buying her through Tattersalls. She was a wonderful filly to work and grew into her potential as a show horse.” As a three-year-old she debuted at Bonnie Blue with Kristi Nichols at the whip, James, now recovered from shoul-



Susan Bartlett and CH Harlem's Santa Fe had a storied career earning over 40 titles together including the Kentucky County Fair Fine Harness Grand Championship in 2006.

der surgery, would handle the driving duties at Lexington and then Louisville. She won her first of many titles in Freedom Hall with James in 2003 as the Three-Year-Old Fine Harness Mare World's Champion.

Susan Bartlett, who would become CH Harlem's Santa Fe's longtime owner, had wrapped up a successful career with CH Preferred American and happened to be searching for her fine harness horse with trainer Chuck Herbert. Bartlett remembers “When we were looking for a new harness horse in 2002, Jimmy Robertson told Chuck about a three-year-old he had seen that belonged to Kristi Nichols. We went to Paducah and ended up buying a black horse.”

Even though she was just a three-year-old, Bartlett debuted Santa Fe, better known as “Ellie,” right after she was purchased. She remembered the first time she showed ‘Ellie’ was St. Louis Charity and Lisa Uhde told her to stop smiling so big while she was showing. Throughout their career together, Bartlett always seemed to beam every time she was in the buggy. Bartlett remarked, “that was the kind of effect she had because ‘Ellie’ was just fun to drive.”

Bartlett would drive the mare for most of career with Herbert sneaking in a few drives. Herbert's first drive led to the win in the UPHA Fine Harness Classic National Championship. He also claimed the Junior Fine Harness Reserve World's Champion of Champions, Junior Fine Harness Mare Reserve World's Champion and Junior Fine Harness Reserve National Champion titles the following season.

Bartlett enjoyed success over the years with Ellie. Two electrifying performances were on The Red Mile with back-to-back Amateur Fine Harness Grand Champion titles in 2004 and 2005. Together they amassed 43 wins at great shows like All American Classic, Mid-America Mane Event, Indy Charity, Mercer County Fair, May Classic, Alabama Charity, and River Ridge. In Kansas City, the pair was crowned Amateur Fine Harness Reserve National Champions in 2006. Then in Freedom Hall they collected the 2006 Kentucky County Fair Fine Harness Grand Champion title along with reserve world's champion titles in 2004, 2008 and 2010 in the amateur ladies and a reserve world's champion title in 2005 in the ladies division.



Chuck Herbert would have the pleasure showing this grand mare only a handful of times but he made each one count. His first trip was to the UPHA Fine Harness Classic National Championship winner's circle in 2003.

CH Harlem's Santa Fe added the title of world's champion producer to her list of accolades with the birth of Tory Burch (sired by Designed) in 2009. She was also the dam of I'm Expensive Too, world's champion Expensively Designed, and Bartlett's Pick Me (who Bartlett showed to the Country Pleasure Driving win at the 2020 Alabama Charity).

She was officially retired at the All American Classic in 2015 and lived out her final years at Judy Werner's Redwing. Werner remembers "Ellie never giving us one problem from the day she arrived. In recent years her buddy was another black mare belonging to Marion Story. They were great friends, and that mare's nickname was Elle, and Elle misses her friend."



photo by Howie Schatzberg

Kalarama's Blue Mac had an expression, head set, way of going and talent that turned people's heads whenever he and Candi Aversenti passed by.

CH KALARAMA'S BLUE MAC

Blue O'Shea x Callaway's Lady Mac (BHF)

2005 – 2021

Theirs was an unexpected partnership - the big, flashy, wild-eyed gelding and the diminutive woman sitting on top of him. CH Kalarama's Blue Mac (Blue O'Shea x Callaway's Lady Mac BHF) and Candi Aversenti often made people stop in their tracks as they headed to the show ring and the adulation followed them out of the ring as they often sported the blue and/or tricolor ribbons.

Denessa and Randy Harper spent an entire winter in 2014 shopping for a walk-trot horse for Candi. As Spring approached, they made a trip to Neil Visser's to look at a mare. "She was a nice mare," said Denessa, "but she just wasn't the one."

The Harper's asked Visser if he had anything else to look at and he hesitated; the gelding owned by Diane Sembler-Kamins was an awful lot of horse and he wasn't sure that's what they had in mind.

"That was exactly what we had in mind," said Denessa. "We wanted something different and we knew that we would know it when we saw it." Visser told them the two-time reserve world's champion and reigning 2013 Amateur Gentlemen's Three-Gaited World's Champion (with Nick Maupin) was



Candi rode Mac to the Amateur Three-Gaited Over 15.2 World's Championship in 2014 and 2015 in addition to their many other titles earned.

a lot of horse but Randy and Denessa knew Candi could handle him."

And handle him she did. They debuted barely a month later at May Classic and won the Amateur Three-Gaited class in their only appearance. Rock Creek followed where they were the amateur over 15.2 champions and amateur grand champions.

Wins at Shelby County Fair and Harrodsburg followed before they headed to Louisville and exited as the 2014 Amateur Three-Gaited Over 15.2 Reserve World's Champions.

"I liked his big personality and the fact that he was very 'go forward'. All I had to do was just get out of his way and let him do his thing. When I put my foot in the stirrup I had to be ready to go but I was never afraid of him. He was not a hard horse to ride but he was not going to wait for me. Once he came out of the stall he was ready to show," said Candi.

He was on Denessa's string at home and she also loved his attitude and athleticism. "I always had to warm him up first and then Candi would get on," said Denessa. "Just like Candi in the show ring, he and I turned heads in the warm up ring because he loved his job and he always enjoyed himself. He never had a bad day. I always had to work him first at home because I knew I had to be fresh and ready for him when I hit the saddle. I also wanted to work him first because he always just made my day and got it started on a high note."

She added, "One year at Devon, we ended up in the middle of several big carriages as we were heading to the warm up area and he got so big and was so fired up, people were clapping and screaming for us before Candi even got on him. I knew she was going to have the biggest ride of her life. He oozed charisma and he just had that effect on people. He made them stop and look at him."

"The Shelby County Fairgrounds were a favorite venue for us," said Candi. "He loved showing outdoors and he used to go through that archway at the entrance to that ring and his chest would puff up and his big, beautiful eyes would get wider than they already were and we would head into that ring and have a great time."

They always had a great time and always made a great show there. In addition to going seven for seven in that Shelby County Fairgrounds ring, Mac and Candi claimed wins and/or reserves at Kentucky Spring Premier, Shelbyville, Tampa Charity, Bonnie Blue, Lexington, Southern Saddlebred Fall Finale, Gasparilla and Devon in their career together.

"He had a following," said Randy Harper. "People always asked about him and followed his career and that's a really rare thing."

"Inside all that big personality was a kind, sweet horse who used to find every carrot I hid for him in my pockets. He was my favorite horse ever and I loved every minute I got to spend with him. I'll miss him every day," said Denessa.

"We were meant to be," said Candi. "That day I went to try him, all it took was one pass down the rail and I knew he was my horse. My husband Ed knew it too. He loved us together and Ed is and always will be my biggest supporter. He liked the others I tried but he just knew Mac and I were meant for each other."



Freschetta's show ring career came to a close in Kansas City as Darien Walker drove the athletic pony to the AHHS Youth Medallion Hackney/Harness Pony Reserve National Championship title for Gary Dickherber.

FRESCHETTA

Twin Willow's Handsome Dan x Bruschetta

2008 – 2021

Born at Golden Creek Farms, Freschetta was the daughter of the multi-titled Twin Willow's Handsome Dan and Bruschetta. Mary Gaylord McClean debuted the leg-waving mare as a four-year-old at Kentucky Spring Premier before Max Ciampoli took over the lines.

Under Ciampoli's tutelage, Freschetta earned titles at ASHAV, Raleigh Spring Premier, the JD Massey Classic and Bonnie Blue in the open harness pony division. It was at Bonnie Blue that she caught Annika Bruggeworth's eye.

Freschetta was Bruggeworth's first foray into the Hackney world. She was a great introduction to the breed and became a Siren Song celebrity. Annika along with her son Scotty, trainer Rick Martin, friend Carson Kressley and catch drivers Kelsey Martin and Taylor Burton campaigned "Freshy" from 2013 to 2018. They earned titles at great shows up and down the eastern seaboard, on the Kentucky County Fair Circuit, Indy Charity,

Mane Event, All American Classic, Dayton, and the Pink Ribbon Classic. In 2016, Scotty claimed the AHHS Youth Medallion Hackney/Harness Pony Reserve National Champion title.

Annika describes “Freshy” as having “the biggest heart (she’s) ever encountered.” Current owner Gary Dickherber echoed her sentiment adding, “she loved pleasing the people around her.” He added that “Freshy would always know when Annika was around,” complimenting Annika on the “great bond she has with her animals.” Both owners will always remember her for her “photo-genic performances and love for mints.”

In her final two years in the show ring under Dickherber’s ownership she was in training at Joe Jenkins’ Windy Ridge Farm in Harrodsburg, Kentucky. Dickherber shared the driving duties with Beth Jenkins, Scotty Bruggeworth and Tami Shrock with many successes. She was also campaigned by junior exhibitor drivers Matthew Christopher Schuckert and Darien Walker who both drove her to AHHS Medallion national titles.

Dickherber will always remember Freshy as “the most athletic pony ever born. She was my once in a lifetime pony with a ton of heart and hocks.” He knows she is trotting high in the sky now.



photo by Caitlin Reason

LLL Tzar Alexander GCH was known for his beauty, starting off as World Champion Junior Stallion before adding several world titles in the hunter pleasure division.

LLL TZAR ALEXANDER GCH

Cingate Lucky Star x Merriehill My Maria

2008 – 2021

The Morgan world lost a world champion show horse and beloved companion with the January 19, 2021, passing of LLL Tzar Alexander GCH. Mallory Stacy-Sciaraffa remembers the first time she saw the horse she would come to know and love, “I actually first saw him in OKC as a three-year-old. We were stabled near the warm-up ring and when I saw him come by, I just thought he was so beautiful.”

That beautiful horse was born on May 22, 2008. The son of Cingate Lucky Star and Merriehill My Maria was bred by Boris and Emelia Tabakoff. Under the ownership of the Tabakoff’s and the direction of Merriehill Farm, LLL Tzar Alexander won his first world championships. He was crowned 2010 World Champion Junior

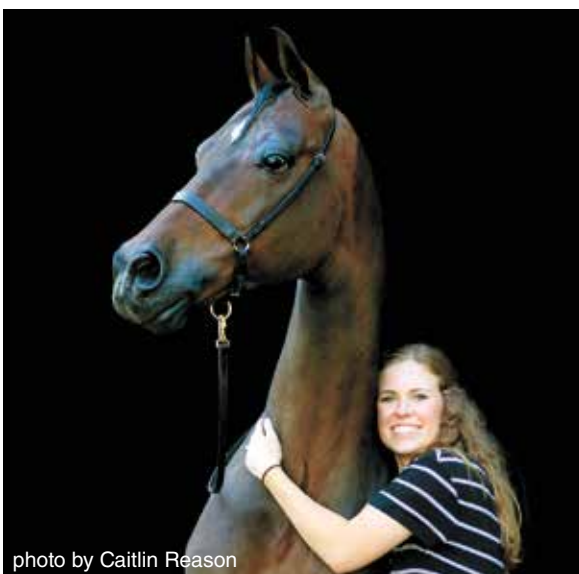


photo by Caitlin Reason

Mallory Stacy-Sciaraffa noted that Kid was so special to be around as he was personable, bright and so beautiful no matter what he was doing.

Stallion and made his celebrated entry into the hunter pleasure division in 2011. He was crowned the 2011 World Champion Three-Year-Old Hunter Pleasure before stepping up as a four-year-old to wear the roses as 2012 World Champion Hunter Pleasure.

The gorgeous stallion became available in 2013 and after the Grand National was purchased by the Stacy family. He was gelded soon after to make his junior exhibitor debut with Mallory who remembers the first time she rode the magnificent horse known fondly as Kid.

“He was just so big and bold. The first time I sat on him, he was so massive compared to my other horse, Bell South. Each time I rode him, it was more fun than the last.”

Kid and Mallory made their team debut in 2014 with wins at Oklahoma Centennial, Red River Classic and Jubilee and were reserve in their age group at the Morgan Grand National. They made many more victory passes in 2015 leading up to four victories at the Grand National and World Championship Morgan Horse Show with 10 out of a possible 12 first-place votes. Their bold and confident rides netted them the Junior Exhibitor



photo by Howie Schatzberg

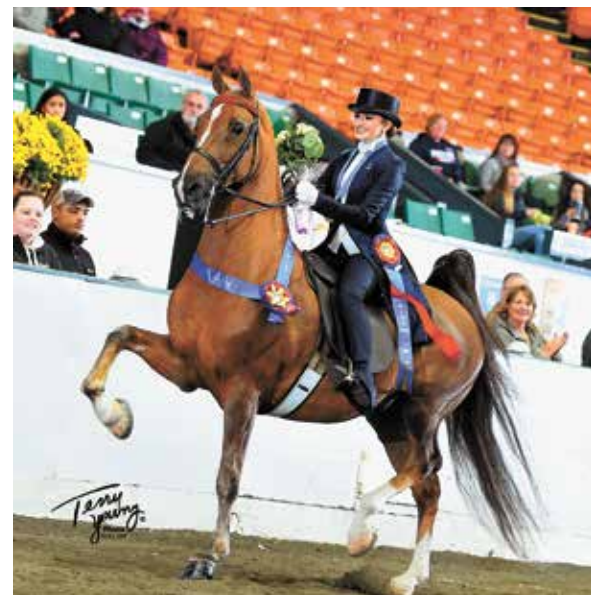
The 2015 Grand National and World Championship Morgan Horse Show saw LLL Tzar Alexander GCH and Mallory Stacy (Sciaraffa) capture four victories in the deepest of competition with at least 18 in every class including a pair of world championships.

Hunter Pleasure 16-17 World Championship as well as the Youth Hunter Pleasure World Championship.

2015 was Mallory’s final year as a junior exhibitor, but she continued to show Kid to wins in 2016-2018 in the ladies and amateur divisions including more Grand National titles. Following her graduation from Stephens College, Mallory had the opportunity to work at Indian Creek Morgan Farm as an assistant to Shanna Gish. Mallory and Kid made the move to Indiana in 2019 to work with Gish who she calls “an incredible trainer and teacher.”

“I had a lot of fun showing Kid, but the last two years have been really special, being able to be with him every day. I got to trail ride him, love on him, really enjoy him. He was just so special to be around. He was personable, bright and so beautiful no matter what he was doing. I would just look at him and think, ‘you are so incredible’. The last time I showed him was as a professional at the 2019 Blue Ridge Classic. It was another special memory,” Mallory added.

While his passing leaves a huge void for Mallory, her family and the Indian Creek team, LLL Tzar Alexander sired nine foals with the promise of more in the future thanks to frozen semen. Three of his get have already been show ring winners, and the Stacy family now owns his daughter Totally Wicked (out of Faircrest Bewitched). The two-year-old filly just came into the training barn at Indian Creek and Mallory is enjoying getting her started lunging and lining. She sees a lot her sire in the filly and knows she has big shoes to fill. The legacy of LLL Tzar Alexander GCH lives on.



Won For The Gipper and Ashley Perry triumphed as the NEHC Medal Finals Grand Champions, among several other titles.

WON FOR THE GIPPER

Callaway’s The Gipper x Gin Blossom

2005 – 2021

“They had a quirky relationship,” said trainer Jess Verrill of Ashley Perry and her beloved Won For The Gipper who unexpectedly died January 20. “She could walk in the barn and he would hear her voice and nicker. This is the most devastating horse loss I’ve ever had.”

Foaled and owned for the first two years of his life by the late Dr. Scott Bennett, Won For The

Gipper was a son of Callaway's The Gipper and the Salemtown daughter, Gin Blossom. He was first shown by Jim Lowry as a junior horse, followed by Brynn Krogh, Mayo Moctezuma, Leslie Laforce, and Taylor Pszeniczny before the Perry family (Karen, Chad, Ashley, Ava) purchased him following the 2015 show season. That year he had won the 16-17 equitation class at the UPHA/American Royal with Pszeniczny, among other titles.

Teamed with Ashley Perry at Verrill Stables, Won For The Gipper was a star in both the equitation and junior exhibitor three-gaited divisions. Some of Ashley's shining moments came in 2016 as the Reserve World's Champion Saddle Seat Equitation 12-13 rider, the 2016 NEHC Saddle Seat Medal Finals Grand Champion, and in 2019 the Lexington Junior League UPHA Challenge Cup Champion.

Other titles in their five years together came from UPHA 14 Spring Premiere, Devon, Greater Boston, Connecticut Summer Classic, Summer Kick Off, Twin State Octoberfest, and the UPHA 14 Summer Classic.

"Gipper had a lot of spirit and pizzazz; he fit well with Ashley," said Verrill. "I'll miss his work ethic. Every day was like it was Louisville. He never put an ear back and you could go to a show he had been to 100 times before and he would be like he had never seen that ring. At the same time, Ashley could jump on him and go off trail riding. He loved that kid."

BRUCE CONOVER

1956 - 2021

Bruce Conover, 64, of Brandenburg, Kentucky, died Friday, January 8, following a short illness. A graduate of Adair County High School, Conover was a well-known trainer of American Saddlebreds, a Kentucky Colonel, an avid bass fisherman, and owner/operator of Blue Ribbon Motors, Inc.

"I worked with him at a barn in Elizabethtown, [Kentucky] for a while," said Todd Miles. "We worked a bunch of young horses for Randy and Glendle Tabor. We'd get them started and they would come pick out the good ones to take home."

"Bruce was a very talented horseman and had a great sense of humor. I remember once at Louisville he was showing a three-year-old gaited

colt and when they lined up he shouts over the rail to us, 'Are there any good ones in here?' Glendle laughingly responded, 'No, they're all saving them at home.'"

Preceded in death by his mother, Ella Sue McClister Conover, he is survived by his wife, Denise McCloud Conover, a son and daughter-in-law Wayne Joseph and Aurela Conover, his father Joe Conover, and a sister Rhonda Conover.

JAMIE DAVIS CRABTREE

1957 - 2021

Daughter of the late Jean McLean Davis and Richard Joseph Davis, Jr., Jamie Davis Crabtree died January 25th at the age of 63. Jamie will forever be remembered as a part of the iconic Oak Hill Farm, Harrodsburg, Kentucky.

During her show days, Jamie and the great CH Rob Shriver, a full brother to World's Grand Champion Five-Gaited CH Will Shriver, ruled the junior exhibitor five-gaited division, winning the qualifier and championship at Louisville in 1972, '73, and '75. In '73, trainer Tom Moore took Rob back in the big stake the night after Jamie won her second World's Champion of Champions Junior Exhibitor Five-Gaited title and the mighty gelding was Five-Gaited Reserve World's Grand Champion to Surefire and Bill Wise. In addition to their world's titles, Jamie and Rob won championships at Lexington Junior League, Rock Creek, the Indiana State Fair, Good Samaritan and the Tennessee State Horse Show.

The grand homebred fine harness champion, Dear Amelia (Jamestown x CH Oak Hill's Dear One), was another favorite of Jamie's. They won the Ladies Fine Harness Stake at the 1989 Lexington Junior League, in addition to titles at Indy 500, River Ridge, Music City, and the Kentucky Fall Classic.

"She was such a lovely person and we had a lot of fun times traveling to shows together when George [Knight] was at Oak Hill," said Kim Skipton.

One of Jamie's proudest roles was being mom to Tut and Rebecca Crabtree, both of whom she is survived by. In addition to a funeral service in Harrodsburg, Kentucky, she was buried next

to her mother in the Olive Branch Cemetery in Portsmouth, Virginia.

BIL HARTMAN

1937 - 2021

When you ask some of those who knew Bil Hartman, they all circle back around to the same common theme. He was happiest when he was at a horse show. "Bil was the most 'pro horse show' person I can think of," said Stacy Hennessy.

Married to wife Mary K for more than 40 years, the two of them were a fixture at many shows on the west coast. Mary K often serves as show secretary and Bil would often serve as the official show steward. Regardless of the hat he was wearing, and he wore many in service to the show horse industry, Bil was never without a smile and a kind word.

He was instrumental in getting the Morgan Medallion moved from Santa Barbara, California, to South Point in Las Vegas. He couldn't bear the thought of losing a horse show.

The amateur owner/trainer had Morgans, Saddlebreds and Hackneys and loved them all equally. When he had the opportunity to show CH Into The Cosmos under the direction of Frank and Ann Miller at the World's Championship Horse Show in 2014 for owner Helen Ragen, he was truly beside himself with excitement and joy. When they finished in the top four on the green shavings, his grin had everybody cheering, whether they knew him or not. His happiness was infectious and radiated out of him.

Bil loved his family and his passing January 31, 2021 will leave a big hole in the show horse industry. "Losing Bil is an enormous loss to our horse show family," said Stacy. He loved everything about horse shows: the competition, the camaraderie, the sportsmanship, the human and equine talent and he wanted to do everything in his power to help anyone and everyone who had a desire to experience showing to be able to do that."

"He was an institution in the California Horse Show business," said Ann Miller. "He was a treasured part of our [Miller Equestrian, Inc.] village and we will miss him to no end."

Bil was survived by his wife Mary K Hartman, daughter Tracy Hartman Putnam, three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



Bruce Conover was not only a top horseman, but an avid fisherman as well.



Jamie Davis Crabtree and CH Rob Shriver won three World's Champion of Champions Junior Exhibitor Five-Gaited titles.



Bil Hartman loved everything about horse shows, especially if he was sitting behind a great one like CH Into The Cosmos, pictured here at Charity Fair in 2014.