

**MISSISSIPPI
QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES**



**Photos are on the south wall of
the Glass Room on south east
end of
Kirk Fordice Equine Center
State Fairgrounds
Jackson, MS**



Terry Reynolds
inducted
March 2026

Terry Reynolds loves a good horse, no matter what the discipline, as evident by the many horses he has owned throughout the years. Terry was a Northeast director of the Mississippi Quarter Horse Association for many years and in 1983 he became president. The Dixie National was big, the horse shows were big and our Futurity was one of the largest and best not only for the south, but the country.

Terry just loved horses and he purchased several for his daughter Dawn and his son Bruce. They showed in Open and 4H shows and graduated to AQHA but sports and college got in the way. So Terry decided to just keep buying, showing and raising horses. He stayed active in MQHA for many years, being a past president director and showing his horses.

Here is a list of some of the top horses he has either owned, shown and/or raised.

Our Little Haida – Reserve World Champion Non-Pro Cutting Horses (earned the highest score a Non-Pro had ever earned at the time.)

Three Little Pegs – AQHYA World Champion Tem Penning

Billys Fancy Miss- MQHA Hi Point Halter Mare being named Grand Champion Mare at the Mississippi State Fair AQHA show.

Cactus Walletha – earned her AQHA Championship while being owned by Terry.

Scotch Dee Pine- Champion Ladies Western Pleasure at State of Mississippi Championship Show.

Monkey Four – MQHA High Point Gelding

Our Little Queen – was one of the fastest running mares around and was pretty hard to beat at the shows.

Im So Fantastic – MQHA High Point Halter Stallion & 7th place at the World Show

Little Joe Steal – 4H Champion in Halter & western pleasure

Cheyenne Know – World Champion in Western Riding and was top 10 breeding stallion until his untimely death.

The Major Legend – MQHA High Point All Around Horse and was another top breeding stallion.

West Poet – Won Mississippi Amateur Western Pleasure Futurity and later became the High Point All Around Youth Horse in Mississippi.

Fancy Knots – Mississippi State Open Show Champion in Walk-Trot

Levis Fancy Free – Mississippi state 4-H Champion in Western Pleasure who went on to place at Regionals

Zip to A Million – MQHA Champion or reserve in Youth Showmanship, Horsemanship and Western Pleasure and went on to earn top honors at Regionals.

These are just a few of the top individuals that Terry has owned or raised or both. He helped shaped MQHA with his horses and breeding into what it is today.

Terry also served on the board of directors of the of the Southern Cutting Futurity.

On October 7th 2021 Winston Forestry Association (WFA) honored Mr. Terry Reynolds with the WFA Appreciation Award for his service to our area's forestry industry and his support for the WFA mission to educate landowners.

No inductee(s) for 2025 due to restructuring



**Wayne Stinson
inducted
January 2024
(posthumously)**

Wayne Stinson has been a trainer and showman of American Quarter Horses for most of his adult life. He promoted Quarter Horses in but one of his biggest contributions to the Mississippi Quarter Horse Association was his work with the MQHA's Fall Futurities. These

Futurities showcased the best of the up-and-coming young Quarter Horses.

Wayne worked tirelessly to be sure every aspect of these futurities were successful and enjoyable to all that participated.

Son of John Rea and Mattie Lorraine, Wayne Stinson was born in Yazoo, Mississippi on December 4th, 1936. After graduating in 1954 he joined the Navy for a four-year stint before returning to farming and then graduated from Mississippi State University with a degree in Animal Science in 1972.

Wayne had two sons; John and (the late) Lane and two grandchildren

Wayne started out riding horses for Thaggard Farms in Madden, Ms. Thaggard Farms was home to some of the finest horses in the state. Thaggard Farms also had a horsemanship camp in the 1960's and early 1970's in which Wayne helped a good many beginning riders and showmen and women the basics of good horsemanship.

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In 1972 Wayne trained and showed the beautiful quarter horse "PRECIOUSRECIOS BONNET" owned by Hellen Rawson of Meridian, MS to *AQHA Championship*

Wayne went on to be a carded judge for Quarter Horses, paints but mostly Palomino.



George Shepherd inducted January 2022



Like many young men, George choose to enlist in the Air Force.

He took a trip to Ericson, Nebraska to the Pitzer Ranch and bought a stud out of Two Eyed Jack. His name was Eyed Do Good. Three months later we had to have him put down due to a problem in his spinal column.

So back to Nebraska they went. It was the first Pitzer Ranch Production Sale. Mr. Pitzer knew they was there to replace the stud that was lost. It was down to the last stud colt in the sale, but as luck would have it, he was the one they had our eye on. Mr. Pitzer stopped the bidding, took the mic and said "George Shepherd, where are you? This is the colt that you need to buy." Well we did just that. We bought lot #81, Two Eyed Sizzler, and never regretted it for one second.

And showing was a family affair. But you would be hard pressed to find Wanda in any photos. She was too busy getting the horses properly groomed for their photo shoots. .Daughter, Shayne, did much of the showing of our horses, Their boys, Walt and Spence were mostly involved in Roping Events. There were some long show days since Halter was the first class and Roping the last. They loved every minute of it. Started showing Sizzler in 1979 In 1980 he earned his Superior Western Pleasure Certificate In 1982 he received his AQHA Championship . After getting his championship we retired him from the show circuit to go home and get to work. There were many outside mares as well as their own They registered 121 foals with AQHA over the years

George served as president of MQHA in 1984. Wife Wanda was secretary for 3 years.

Tom McBeath inducted January 2022



Joined MQHA in 1975 and became a Director in 1979. Tom has served a virtually every committee we have. Most recently he is on the finance committee, the nominating committee, and has served on the Dixie National Committee since early 80's. Tom has served as president many times. 1st in 1987 in which he was the youngest person ever elected to serve. Then again in 2001, 2015 2016, 2023 & 2024. He has served as AQHA Director at large for 20+ years Has served as Chairman of AQHA Show Committee & Show Council for the past 3 years. Past AQHA Committee member of Stud Book & Registration. Past AQHA Committee member of Professional Horseman's Council & many more

Judged AQHA, Palomino, Paint World shows multiple times, NRHA futurity & Derby Judge , NSBA World Show Judge, All American Quarter Horse Congress Judge, Internationally – Judged Brazilian Congress, Latin American Championships, European Championships for AQHA & Paint, Australian National Championships

He served as either the President or the Vice President of 4H for over 20 years.

In 2016 he was selected as the American Youth Horse Council Leader/Mentor of the year. In 2019 was awarded AQHA Professional Horseman status.

Tom rode his youth mare Jeanie Whiz Bar to 1977 AQHA Honor Roll. Jeanie Whiz Bar went on to be the Dam of Top Sail Whiz NRHA's 12.4 million dollar sire.

Tom has coached/mentored youth, amateur, selects winning at world shows, regional & local level shows.

He also managed Equine Sales at the Dixie National "The Southern Classic" horse sale for many years as well as facilitated private sales to clients of all levels.

Tom was also a volunteer coach at the Semper Fi/America's Fund Dixie Challenge for many years.

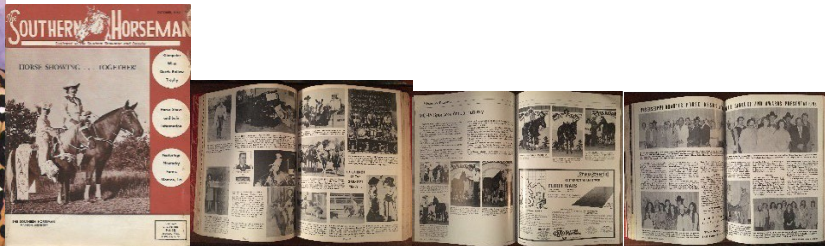
It's easy to see the many lives that have crossed paths with him.



JUST A FEW OF THE LIVES HE HAS TOUCHED



Thelma Thompson inducted January 2021



For those of you unfamiliar with the Southern HORSEMAN Magazine, it was the social media for the Southern Horse World for the 1960's, 70's, 80's 90's until it's last issue in 2007

For 45 Years The Southern Horseman Magazine brought the Mississippi Quarter Horse Association to its pages month in and month out, year in and year out, to more than 100,000 readers across the nation.

Thelma Thompson was co-founder of the magazine which started its first issue in October 1962

It was laid out on the kitchen table. The need for the magazine was simple. The Thompson family was horse showing every weekend, and during the week, calls were constantly coming in to ask where the next show,,sale or event was taking place.

The Southern HORSEMAN was always a constant list of coming shows, sales and equine events across the South.

Being the official publication of MQHA, the Show winners,,Circuit Champions and Year end High Point Award recipients were regular items in the Southern HORSEMAN

By 1975, Thelma Thompson decided to take in Texas and Oklahoma which went over so well in the horse industry, it was decided, despite the name, The Southern HORSEMAN, to go nationwide

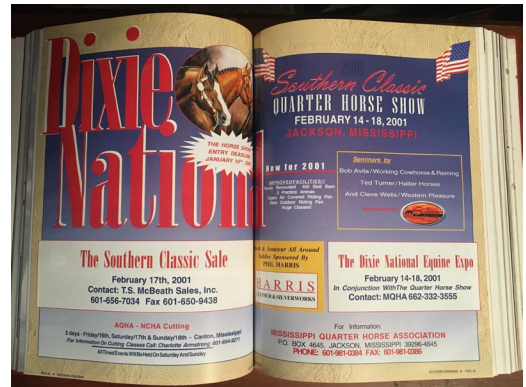
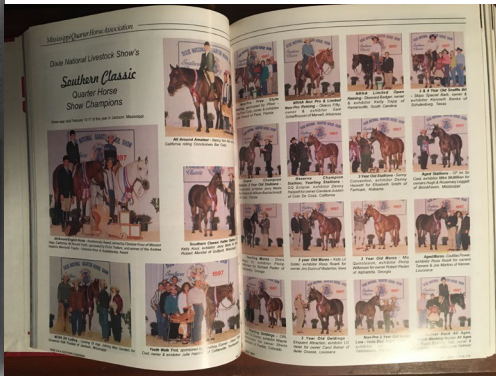
This move had the magazine growing extensively. It also meant that it was able to take MQHA with it, to more and more exposure across a nation of horse industry like never before.

By the 1980's growth in the horse industry and in the Southern HORSEMAN had everyone working at full tilt. Readership grew to over 100,000 The stallion issues of the magazine had over 500 pages And still all production was being done under one roof at what was now Southern Publishing Company, a top scale magazine, all produced on state of the art equipment. From concept to finished product, delivered to the post office, The company did everything but make the paper.

Southern Publishing Company also published the magazines for the Palomino Horse Breeders of America and the Paso Fino Horse Breeders of America in addition to commercial printing.

During this time, the Mississippi Quarter Horse Association was at the point of putting their own quarterly newsletter out, and Southern Publishing Company helped with the production of this publication in addition to running national MQHA news in the Southern HORSEMAN

The Dixie National Quarter Horse Show was growing to be one of the largest in the nation and the Southern HORSEMAN was devoting numerous pages to it's promotion



Five decades together 1962=2007



Charlie Temkovitz
inducted
January 2021

Charlie was involved in breeding, training and showing his American Quarter Horses.

Charlie served on the Mississippi Quarter Horse Association Board of Directors for many years, cumulating in him serving as President of the Mississippi Quarter Horse Association in 1986.

He showed many halter horses in the early futurities such as the infamous Grand Twenty Futurity, as well as the futurity conducted by the Mississippi Quarter Horse Association. He rode the horses he trained in the early Dixie National Quarter Horse Shows and at various shows around the region. His sights soon took to his family and their desire to be involved in speed events. Charlie had some luck in that arena with Cakes N Candy, Nobles Alibi, Ms Dixie Cousins. Each of these were winners of over 100K in lifetime earnings. Ms Dixie Cousins competed in barrels at the Dixie National Quarter Horse Show and won Dixie Nationals SR barrel racing champion numerous times and was also awarded her AQHA ROM in barrel racing.

Charlie and his family continue to be involved in the horse industry doing speed events and Little Britches Rodeo competitions.



MQHA Hall of Fame Induction, Dot Cox, posthumously

Pictured L to R, Brantley Chamblee, husband of Casey, Casey Chamblee, granddaughter, Ron Terry, husband of Dorothy, Dorothy Cox Terry, daughter, Chair Induction Committee Tom McBeath, Percy Quinn, grandson & Elizabeth Quinn, wife of Percy

Dot Cox

January 11, 2020

Dot Cox was a very active member during her lifetime, but most of her time was spent behind the scenes. She was a do-er. If you needed something done, it went to Dot, and it got done. She was instrumental in the establishment of the Mississippi Junior Quarter Horse Association, now named Mississippi Quarter Horse Youth Association. She was also involved with the Mississippi High School Rodeo and was very active as these two state youth association evolved over the years. As a parent and grandparent, Ms. Cox was very proud of four girls in her family, who were crowned Miss Mississippi High School Rodeo Queen, and she celebrated her grandson Percy Quinn who was successful in the cutting at the American Junior Quarter Horse World Show. Dot and husband, Murray, were owners of Heavenly Hills Ranch, in Madison, MS, where some of the largest MQHA shows in the 60's and 70's were held. Dot and Murray Cox were co-owners of Cox-Jackson Quarter Horses, a top breeding and showing facility, that spread many Skipper W horses throughout the state. Ms. Cox's family was present and the award was accepted by her daughter, Dorothy Cox Terry.



Hall of Fame Induction Barbara Rodriguez February 11, 2020

Pictured L to R, Sandy McBeath, MQHA 1st Vice President, Barbara Rodriguez, AQHA Director at Large and Chairman of MQHA Hall of Fame Committee, Tom McBeath

Barbara Rodriguez

January 30, 2020

Barbara Rodriguez was the next inductee to our Hall of Fame. A lifetime member of MQHA, Ms. Rodriguez follows in her family's footsteps with this induction. Both her mother and father are members of the MQHA Hall of Fame. Ms. Rodriguez served over 25 years on the MQHA Board of Directors and served two separate terms as President. She also served on the finance committee of the Dixie National Quarter Horse Show for two years. Ms. Rodriguez and her family were instrumental in establishing the first "youth sponsored and produced" horse show for the Mississippi Junior Quarter Horse Association. This show was first held in Carthage, MS, and later moved to her hometown of Natchez, MS. Still today the "youth show" is named in honor of her father, the Roland Stacey Memorial Horse Show. Ms. Rodriguez has made several contributions to MQHA activities. Two contributions that stand out are the Dixie National Quarter Horse Show and the MQHA Scholarship program. Over years of successfully showing quarter horses, MS. Rodriguez's family acquired an enormous number of trophies from the 1960's and 1970's. After her father's death, Ms. Rodriguez donated these trophies to the 50th Anniversary Dixie National Quarter Horse Show and Equestrian's with Disability Shows. Given to class winners at the Dixie, these trophies retained their original plates, and a second plate was added for the 50th Anniversary Show. Secondly, Ms. Rodriguez and family were also very good friends with Orrin Mixer, who is known for his western prints, one of which can be seen as "the official American Quarter Horse" image used by the American Quarter Horse Association. Over many years, Ms. Rodriguez has donated numerous of Mr. Mixer's prints for auction with thousands of dollars being raised for the Mississippi Quarter Horse Scholarship Fund. Ms. Rodriguez was present at the banquet and jubilantly accepted her award surrounded by many friends and family.



Rev. W. Otis Seal



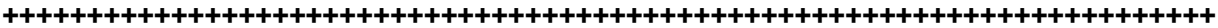
Dr. A. Otis Seal



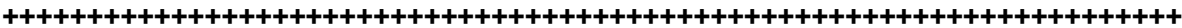
Rob Seal

January 12, 2019

The Seal Family



**Mr. David Howell
inducted
January 12, 2019**



**Ben Emison
inducted
January 2018**



**The Alman Family
inducted
January 2018**

1990 BOARD OF DIRECTORS Southern Cutting Horse Futurity: Terry Reynolds, Jimmy Sandifer and Billy Atwood joined Dr. Lamar Thaggard, Ray Smith, Jimmy Orrell, Ben Emison, Buck Alman, James Hooper, Phil Vasser, Ray Sims, Benny Tidwell, Eugene Barnett, Sam Shepard, Steve Buster and Jim Ware.

1990 CHAMPIONS:

Open Futurity - Miss Play Dough, owned & ridden by Pat Earnheart

NonPro Futurity - Almans Bear Trap & Max Alman

Open Derby - Oh Cay Quixote & Roy Carter. Owned by S.E.

Montgomery

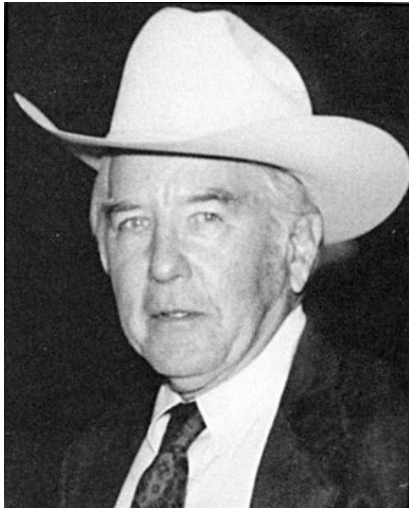
NonPro Derby - Little De Merritt & James Hooper

Open Classic - Freckles John Boy & Roy Carter. Owned by Jeftee

QHs

Non Pro Classic - Baldy Freckles & Lee Garner

**Albert Paxton
Inducted
January 2017**



January 31, 1922-June 8, 2015

Albert Paxton was born in Warren County, Mississippi. He graduated from Mississippi State University where he played baseball, was a member of Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society, President of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity, and was named to Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. He was an M Club Member and a loyal Bulldog for life.

After graduating, Mr. Paxton joined the U.S. Army and served in World War II in the European Theatre as a member of the First Combat Engineers until V.E. Day when he was transferred to the Philippines. Until the end of the war, he served there as aide to Brigadier General Ridgley Gaither, assistant division commander of the 86th Infantry Division.

After the war, Mr. Paxton built a long, distinguished career as the owner of LaClede Plantation and Paxton Quarter Horses in Tallulah, Louisiana. Until recently, he was actively involved in the operation of both enterprises. A nationally noted breeder of quarter horses, Albert Paxton played a major role in the spread of cutting in Northern Louisiana and the Mississippi Delta region. Paxton was inducted into the NCHA Members Hall of Fame in 2002.

Mr. Paxton served as the first president of the Mississippi Quarter Horse Association, was a lifetime member of the American Quarter Horse Association, and in 2002 he was inducted into the National Cutting Horse Hall of Fame. Throughout decades of successful competition at horse shows, he readily conceded it was his love of horses and the friendships formed over the years that brought him great fulfillment. He passed on this love to his children, and today the Paxtons carry on their father's proud heritage.

In 1956 Paxton and a few others brought cutting to the area with a \$500-added show in Vicksburg, Mississippi. That led to the establishment of the North East Louisiana Cutting Horse Association in 1961.

In 1957, Paxton bought Poco Poco, an own son of King that was an NCHA money earner and a grand champion at halter. Poco Poco sired NCHA World Champion King Skeet.

One of the most famous horses he bred was Docs Otoetta, winner of the 1981 NCHA Derby with Bill Riddle. In 1982, she set a record for the most money ever won by a cutting horse in a single year with \$92,390. She also won the NCHA Open Classic and placed second in the Non-Pro Classic that year, ridden by John Paxton.

Mr. Paxton dedicated his considerable energy and talents to being a loving, devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather to his extended family who will always honor his memory. He was a longstanding member of the First United Methodist Church of Tallulah and an important contributor to the community in many civic capacities including his support of the 4-H program and his service as a past director of Tallulah State Bank and Deposit Guaranty Bank. All who knew Albert Paxton will attest that with his stately bearing, strong work ethic, steadfast discipline, and unswerving loyalty, he, throughout his life, unquestionably embodied the admirable traits that define America's Greatest Generation.

POCO POCO b. H. QUARTER HORSE, 1949

POCO POCO* b 1949 QUARTER HORSE #0039403	KING* b 14.3hh 1932 QUARTER HORSE #0000234	ZANTANON* ch 1917 QUARTER HORSE U0081745	LITTLE JOE* br 1905 QUARTER HORSE U0073964	TRAVELER* sor 15.1hh ~1885 Edit	Edit
			JEANETTE 2 QUARTER HORSE U0074619	BILLY BY BIG JIM ch	SYKES RONDO dk ch 1887
			STRAIT HORSE* dun 1916 QUARTER HORSE U0080215	PIARE BY SYKES RONDO Edit	MAY MANGUM 1 br 1882
		JABALINA br 1920 QUARTER HORSE U0072570	TRAVELER* sor 15.1hh ~1885 Edit	BARBEE DUN dun 1881	
			BAY MARE b QUARTER HORSE U0075253	GARDNER MARE Edit	TRAVELER* sor 15.1hh ~1885 Edit
			GOTCH 1 QUARTER HORSE U0071731	LITTLE JOE* br 1905 QUARTER HORSE U0073964	TRAVELER* sor 15.1hh ~1885 Edit
	LITTLE NELL HANKINS b 1934 QUARTER HORSE #0012894	CLEGG MARE Edit	JENNY br 1891	SYKES RONDO dk ch 1887	
		CLEGG MARE QUARTER HORSE U0069639	Edit	MAY MANGUM 1 br 1882	
		Edit	Edit	Edit	

- Photo Available

ROM Cutting

Breeder: Jess Hankins, Rocksprings, TX.

Owner: Fred & Mac Woodley, Sabinal, TX.

H-5.0/P-7.0, 1958-ROM Arena(cutting)

NCHA Earnings \$231.44

SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE OFFSPRING: Poco Poco Miss.

ROM ARENA OFFSPRING: Bibb's Bess, King Skeet, Marbles, Poco Poco Miss, Poco Sanford, Poco's Joe King

PRODUCING DAUGHTERS: Cirojo Poco, Poco Red Bug.



**Johnny Mac Sanders
inducted
January 2017**

1946 - January 29, 2014

Johnny Mack Sanders, 67, a popular cutting horse trainer and AQHA/APHA judge from Canton, MS died Wednesday, January 29, 2014 at MS Baptist Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

Johnny Mack was a native of Leake County and a member of Freeny Baptist Church.

He was a prominent figure of the Mississippi Quarter Horse Association, He was also a member of the American Quarter Horse Association, and National Cutting Horse Association. He was past president of Mississippi Quarter Horse Association and the Magnolia Cutting Horse Association.

Sanders was known for his role as an AQHA judge, where he judged The All American Quarter Horse Congress and the AQHA World Championship show. He also served as American Paint Horse Association judge, judging the Paint Horse World Championship show among others.

He instructed at clinics in Australia and Argentina for AQHA.

His contributions to the sport of horse training and show judging were significant and he will be remembered for his guidance and support of youth groups. One youth member wrote " He always looked after the Youth groups and tried his best to keep us straight."

In 1995 Johnny Mack served on the ground breaking committee for the Kirk Fordice Equine Building and was a member of the Fairground Commission Board.

George Phillips Inducted January 2016



DOD February 2, 2015

George Phillips was a cowboy, first, last, and forever. “From the time I rode a mule at my grandfather’s farm as a young child, all I ever wanted to be is a cowboy,” George told *The American Quarter Horse Journal* in October 2011.

George was not *only* a cowboy.

After earning a bachelor’s in philosophy from the University of Southern Mississippi and a law degree from the University of Mississippi, George became the youngest U.S. attorney in the nation at age 31 in 1980. Appointed interim U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi, George developed a reputation as a no-nonsense prosecutor. He took on the Dixie Mafia, corrupt county commissioners, the president pro tempore of the state senate, and a Baptist preacher who was flying in cocaine on small aircraft.

Through it all, whether with his family or in the White House, George was guided by the cowboy ideals of fairness and honesty. George, from Sumrall, Mississippi, and wife Nicole raised three children: Garrison, Margaret, and Mary.

George became an AQHA director in 2002 after being a member for over 30 years. He served on the public policy and membership services committees and the Foundation, ranching, show, marketing, and membership councils. He was elected to the AQHA Executive Committee in 2011.

“I worked for five different presidents, a governor and a U.S. senator, and I’ve never been more excited to do anything than to be on the Executive Committee,” he told the *Journal*.

George’s time was cut short. He died February 2, 2015, from complications of cancer, while serving as AQHA first vice president. At the time, Johnny Trotter was AQHA president and George’s death advanced Second Vice President Dr. Glenn Blodgett into the presidency a year early.

“George’s enthusiasm for the American Quarter Horse was just part of the passion he brought to the AQHA Executive Committee,” Johnny says. “He was the nicest guy. He knew politics and was very much a peacemaker politician, and was a great representative and liaison for the Quarter Horse industry...it was a real shame that he didn’t get to serve as AQHA president. He would have been a great asset to the Association.”

George never had a large breeding or show-horse operation but loved raising horses from bloodlines such as Colonel Freckles and Jackie Bee. Learning the show industry from the ground up, he went from a ring steward to a three-time president of the Mississippi Quarter Horse Association and a four-time manager of the Dixie National Quarter Horse Show.

George Phillips was inducted into the American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame in 2020.



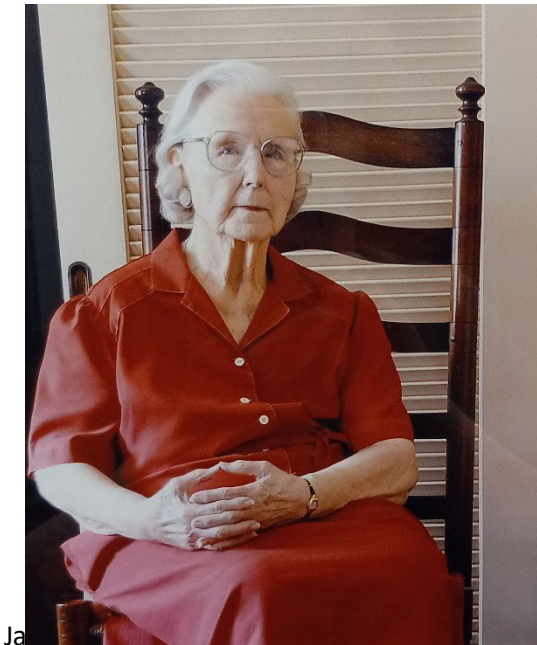
November 20, 1908 - March 23, 1983

H.A. Becknell
inducted
January 2016

Homer Allen Becknell, 74, died Thursday March 23, 1983 at Rankin General Hospital.

He was a cattleman, owner of Becknell Farms Inc. and a construction worker and a member of the First Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mary Edna Becknell, daughter, Mrs. Carol Hatten of Brandon; sisters, Mrs. Bessie Cammack of Terry, Mrs. Eva Griffin of Jackson and Mrs. Mary Koonce of Circleville, Ohio; brother, J.S. Becknell of Jackson and two grandchildren.



Ruth Stacy
inducted
January 2015

Ja

She met Roland "Pee Wee" Stacy in the oil fields and they married in 1941. In 1945 they moved to Natchez from Eunice, Louisiana. Ruth and "Pee Wee" opened an oil field contracting business and Ruth was partner and Office Manager. Mrs. Stacy continued to travel to Eunice keeping books for her father, Lige while managing to keep the Natchez business successful. She was very involved in politics being a founding member of the Adams County League of Women Voters. Her interest in politics blossomed and she became a member of the Republican Party before it "was cool". In 1957, Ruth had a huge interest in quarter horses and became very supportive of the new industry in Mississippi. Ruth and "Pee Wee" raised and bred several champion horses. Ruth was also involved in the Black Angus and Cattle Association. She was a member of the Cow Belles of Adams County. In the Mississippi Quarter Horse Association she became a Director and had the honor of becoming Vice President Emeritus of M.Q.H.A. She was a member of the Natchez Garden Club and Jefferson Street Methodist Church.



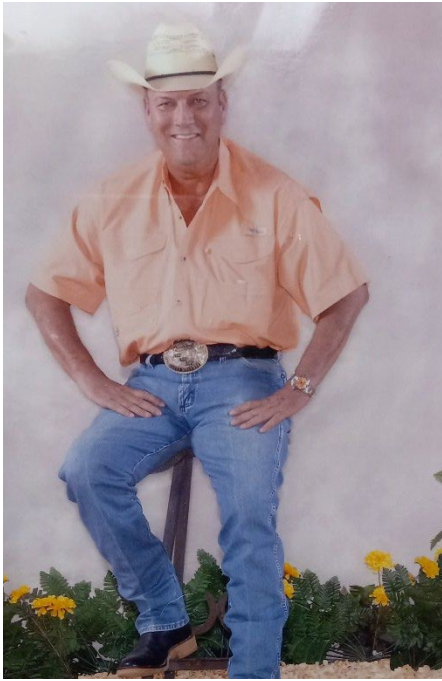
Lloyd R. Smith
inducted
January 2015



Jacqueline Smith
Inducted
January 2014



Austin Moore
inducted
January 2014



Garry Woodruff
inducted
January 2011

November 16, 1954 -October 11, 2009

Garry was the manager of Sunflower County Farm Bureau Agency in Indianola during which time he helped hundreds of individuals.

Mr. Woodruff was a member of Inverness United Methodist Church.

He was also a member of the Jones Hunting Club of Arkansas.

He served the Mississippi Quarter Horse Association in many capacities. He was President of the Mississippi Quarter Horse Association for three terms, 2003, 2006 and 2007. He served as Region 9 Show Manager for over 5 years coordinating the show's activities. He also served as coordinator for the Dixie National Quarter Horse Show for many years all of which proved his dedication to the association.

He was a dedicated family man, father to Swayze and husband to Mary Bess.



Mary Hopkins
inducted
January 2010

July 11, 1933 to July 19, 2020

An AQHA member since Harry Truman was in the White House, Mary Hopkins was well-known as a topflight trainer and top-level judge throughout Mississippi and the Southeast. In 1997, she was the inaugural recipient of the Merle Wood Humanitarian Award, established by the American Quarter Horse Foundation to recognize benevolence, philanthropy and charitable and humane efforts.

Born July 11, 1933, Mary Hayes Holmes added “Hopkins” to her name in 1952, the same year she and her new husband joined AQHA. The Hopkinses welcomed daughter Andree in 1954, and five years later founded their Hopping H Ranch on 75 wooded acres of what they called “hills and holes” a few miles southeast of Vicksburg. Though adamant that a good horse is a good horse regardless of breed, the Hopkinses preferred Quarter Horses such as Pearl Bristow, a mare of Peter McCue and Joe Bailey blood that they bred to the King P-234 grandson Poco Paxton to produce the palomino colt Brister King.

Andree rode Brister King to a performance Register of Merit and a Superior in cutting. It was through the mother/daughter connection that Mary in 1961 became the first 4-H Light Horse Club leader in the Magnolia State. She was involved in some capacity with Mississippi 4-H until her death on July 19, 2020.

A member of the Mississippi Quarter Horse Association for more than 50 years, Mary spent immeasurable time volunteering, teaching, judging and serving in numerous offices. As Mississippi’s first youth adviser for AQHA, she took her charges to the inaugural AJQHA (now AQHYA) World Championship Show in Amarillo and the All American Quarter Horse Congress in Ohio.

Mary became an AQHA judge in 1975, judging many times at three AQHA world shows—open, amateur and youth—and everything from local playdays to the equestrian games at the Special Olympics in 1991 and 1995. She also had judge’s cards with the National Cutting Horse, National Reined Cow Horse, National Snaffle Bit and American Paint Horse associations, as well as the Palomino Horse Breeders of America and the Appaloosa Horse Club.

Working with the Dixie National Quarter Horse Show as everything from exhibitor to manager, secretary and ringmaster, she helped establish the Dixie National’s Equestrians With Disabilities competition, invented the Halter Stakes and designed the distinctive ribbons and medallions awarded to Dixie winners. Mary came up with the show’s “Southern Classic” nickname, and in 2015 helped guide the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Dixie National.

Everything changed in 1989 when Andree died in her sleep at age 35. Honoring her daughter’s dream to have camps devoted to teaching disabled people to handle and ride horses, Mary founded the therapeutic riding program Equi-Able Inc., a nonprofit organization through which she trained hundreds of volunteers and gave countless hours of lessons to the disabled, with no rider ever charged for the work.

Mary was presented the AQHA Special Recognition Award in 2004 and the Professional Horseman’s Lifetime Achievement Award four years later. In 2010, Mary was inducted into the MQHA Hall of Fame; three years later, MQHA named her Most Valuable Professional. Though celebrated as the “First Horse Lady of Mississippi,” neither Mary’s efforts nor the recognition of them were limited to people who prefer to survey the world from a horse. She served on Mississippi’s Children’s Justice Task Force, and Vicksburg selected her as a Hometown Hero to help carry the Olympic Torch across town in 1996.



Gil Switzer
inducted
January 2010

June 17, 1933 – January 6, 2019

AQHA Director-At-Large Gilbert “Gil” Switzer of Gulfport, Mississippi, departed this life and went to join his Heavenly Father and the love of his life, his wife Linda Allison Switzer, on January 6, 2019.

A lifelong resident of Gulfport, he retired from civil service with the United States Department of the Navy, where he oversaw quality assurance at Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Mississippi.

Internationally recognized as an authority on the American Quarter Horse, Gil was a judge, National Cutting Horse Association champion, American Quarter Horse Association national director, founding member of the 21 Riders horse riding club, president and member of the board of directors for the Mississippi Quarter Horse Association, Past President of Mississippi Quarter Horse Association. He was also a president and member of the South Mississippi Horse Show and Rodeo Association.

Gil and Linda traveled the world as he shared his knowledge and love of the American Quarter Horse.

He graduated from Orange Grove High School and attended Perkinson Junior College on a basketball scholarship.

Gil was a member of the military police in the U. S. Army while stationed at Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas.

Referred to by his friends as a “fun-loving guy,” Gil was playful, teasing and still loving with his family and caregivers even as his time with them drew to a close



Dorris Bellow
inducted
January 2008

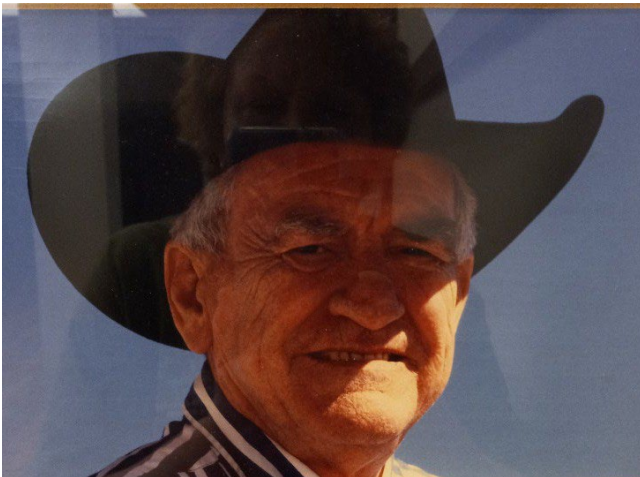


Edwin Johnson
inducted
January 2007



Roland "Pee Wee" Stacy
inducted
January 2007

1911-1973



Dr. Lamar "Doc" Thaggard
Inducted
January 2007

On June 20, 2003 Governor Ronnie Musgrove has appointed Dr. Lamar Thaggard of Carthage to the Mississippi Veteran's Memorial Stadium Commission. He will be representing the at-large position for a five-term of office ending May 1, 2008. "Dr. Thaggard will be an asset to the Mississippi Veteran's Memorial Stadium Commission," said Musgrove. "I know he will successfully fulfill his position."

Dr. Thaggard practiced medicine with his partner at the Madden Medical Clinic PA in Madden. He also was the President of Tuscolameta, Inc. in Walnut Grove and owned Thaggard Farms in Madden.

Member of NCHA

1990 BOARD OF DIRECTORS SOUTHERN CUTTING HORSE FUTURITY: Terry Reynolds, Jimmy Sandifer and Billy Atwood joined Dr. Lamar Thaggard, Ray Smith, Jimmy Orrell, Ben Emison, Buck Alman, James Hooper, Phil Vasser, Ray Sims, Benny Tidwell, Eugene Barnett, Sam Shepard, Steve Buster and

Jim Ware.