

## **GEORGE & MARILYN ANDERS HALL OF FAME INDUCTION** as read by Connie Leichleitner

IT IS MY HONOR TO PRESENT TO YOU THE LATE GEORGE ANDERS FOR INDUCTION INTO THE IBHA HALL OF FAME.

George Anders and his wife Marilyn were constant fixtures at IBHA shows in Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Kentucky, as well as every IBHA World Show until his retirement in 2011. When he wasn't in the Halter pen showing a top notch show horse, you would find him studying the classes or visiting with everyone on the show grounds, and you could be sure a good joke was always being told. If you've ever heard George Anders laugh, you immediately would know where he was on the show grounds – any show grounds.

What struck me when I started to gather information about George from others was the impact that he had on so many other horsemen's lives. So many people both in IBHA and within the 4-H community near his home wrote to me with stories about how he had given them a kind word, a joke or otherwise made them feel included and encouraged. That's just who George was.

George served as the chair of the Ohio State Buckskin Association's Judges Committee for several years, contracting with IBHA judges for all of the association's IBHA-approved shows. This was a position he took very seriously, and worked very hard to hold down costs for OSBA while providing quality judges for the association's events.

For those IBHA judges in the room, you probably knew George in his role as the "negotiator" because I'm sure he twisted your arm into sharing a car ride, a hotel room or maybe knocking a little off your judging fees to help out the Ohio group. I know George appreciated you, and the Ohio State Buckskin Association appreciated it too.

George was an approved IBHA judge from 1985 until he retired in 2007. This perspective gave him a great eye for a horse – and helped him earn 17 IBHA world champion titles and seven Superior Event Halter Horses with 4 additional ROMs in Halter and 2 in Dun Factor. His first record was in 1992 and the last one in 2009. Some of these horse names may be familiar to you:

**DIG MY MOOD** - SUPERIOR EVENT - HALTER

**MAGICAL MASQUERADE** - SUPERIOR EVENT - HALTER H.R. RES. 3 YR OLD MARE

**FINEST ARRAY** - SUPERIOR EVENT - HALTER - H.R. AGED GELDING

**SF CALYPSO** - SUPERIOR EVENT - HALTER - H.R. RES. YRLG. MARE

**JUSTA SHADE DUN** - SUPERIOR EVENT - HALTER, H.R. YRLG, 2 YR OLD AND RES. 3 YR OLD MARE

**KNR TOUCH MY HEART** - SUPERIOR EVENT - HALTER H R YRLG MARE RES 3 YR OLD

**KLASSY CELEBRI TE** - SUPERIOR EVENT - HALTER H.R. RES YRLG STALLION, RES. 2 YR OLD STALLION.

**ZIPPO BAR DUN** - ROM. HALTER AND DUN FACTOR

**COOL SUN BAR** - R.O.M. H.R. 2 YR OLD GELDING

**IM AN AWESOME GUY** - ROM HALTER

**GMA DUN ARRAY** - R.O.M. HALTER - H.R. 3 YR OLD MARE

George also served as a PHBA judge from 1971-2011, and showed Palomino horses as well. He showed his palomino TIFFANY LIGHTS to PHBA Supreme and Championship Awards as well as 27 grand champion titles and 687 lifetime PHBA points.

George also shared his passion for horses locally. He served as a 4-H saddle horse advisor in Highland County, Ohio, for 49 years, where he impacted thousands of local youth members and helped fuel their passion for horses. In fact, one of the youth parents said this of George and Marilyn: "After George and Marilyn retired, our club folded. None of us felt we could do the club justice in trying to follow in their footsteps."

George retired from Cincinnati Milacron, a plastics manufacturing company, after 45 years and was the owner of GMA Tractor Sales. He and Marilyn were married for 53 years before he died in 2012. Marilyn was also an active exhibitor showing Amateur Halter Horses both with IBHA and PHBA, and was a 4-H advisor for 55 years. She passed away this past November 1. They are both greatly missed by our Ohio horse family.