

Hall of Fame Induction, Lon and Doris Allen

One of my favorite parts of the IBHA Convention is presenting the Hall of Fame Inductees with their awards, and this year is no exception. I have the honor to present this award to two people that I can honestly say are some of my favorites in IBHA.

Lon and Doris Allen are two of the people I have met through my association with this group that I consider it a true honor to have met and been able to call my friends. Over the many years of their involvement I have been always impressed with their honesty, candidness, compassion, and professionalism in any endeavor that they took upon themselves.

Lon served on the Executive Committee for many years and as IBHA president for three terms, I believe. Before that he was active in the Mid America Buckskin Association and had been involved with the horse business with Doris. I remember him saying that his involvement was largely due to Doris' interest, but it went beyond that. He was involved in much of the decision making that took place during the large growth years of the organization in the 1990's and 2000's. Many of the rule book standardizations were undertaken under his direction as well as changes in the Convention policies and responsibilities of the Charter Delegates.

The one thing that always stood out about Lon was his integrity. Whenever he did something or went after a change it was for the right reason, that being the good of everyone involved, not for an individual purpose or cause. His management skills that he brought to our organization from his "real" life were truly exemplary and professional in manner.

After that was all said and done, though, one of my memories of Lon was his interest in sports. He loved college basketball, and of course March Madness was always in full swing during convention. During our off time after the day was done, Lon could be found watching games and conducting after meeting business in the lounge of the hotel.

I wish he was here to receive this presentation today. I know he was proud of his accomplishments with the IBHA, I hope he knows how proud we are to have had him be a part of our association.

Now, everyone knows that behind every great man is a great woman. Tonight we are recognizing a great woman and a wonderful lady.

Doris Allen is the epitome of the great woman of which I speak. She has always been quiet and deliberate in her endeavors which I had the honor of sharing with her over the years as Charter Delegate, her from MABA and with the IBHA Youth Scholarship Fund. She always chose to be in the background at any of the functions, she did not like the limelight. I hope to fix that now.

Whenever Doris had something to say, it was important. She took her responsibilities seriously in anything she did. Many of you or your family members have benefitted from her work on the Scholarship Committee. For those of you who are unaware, each of the applicants have to submit an

application which includes letters of recommendation, grades and transcripts, and goals and accomplishments of each of them. Believe me, no one reviewed them more thoroughly than Doris! She believes that the Scholarship Fund is an investment in the future and wanted to make sure that the investment.

Doris also was very professional and shared the integrity and honesty traits with her husband. You always saw them together whatever they were doing. Though not an emotional person, much like Lon, There was a certain “something” that they shared, an emotional bond that was also respectful and something I always admired, which brings to mind a personal insight I can give to you.

Nine years ago, I was diagnosed with prostate cancer shortly before the convention. I was kind of a wreck about it when I went there, I had not started treatment for it at that time and was concerned about what lie ahead for me. Though no discussion had taken place about it between us, I received a card from her within a week after I got home expressing her thoughts and prayers and concerns for me and what I was facing at that time. To this day, that wish is one of my most cherished possessions and one that I will remember for the rest of my life.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please join me in welcoming Lon and Doris Allen into the IBHA Hall of Fame!