

Linda Connors –An exceptional equestrian lady

On behalf of the New York State Horse Council, it is my honor and privilege to recognize all that Linda Connors has done for the equine industry in the state of New York.

Linda was a wonderful personal friend and friend of the Horse Council. I will quote from her obituary "On September 11, 2008, Linda L. Connors passed away at her home, surrounded by family and friends. She was born April 20, 1948 in Auburn, New York. She lived in the Finger Lakes Region of central New York and was an instructor, trainer and judge in the hunter industry for over 35 years. She was the American Quarter Horse Association director for New York State. In 2002 she was presented the title of Honorary Vice President of AQHA. She was on the founding board of directors for the Empire Quarter Horse Association and continued to serve the association until the present time. She lived at her Gallop On Farm in Syracuse, New York where she operated her teaching and training business. She has touched the lives of thousands of people who shared her love of horses.

Linda Connors will be remembered for any number of things, but the two most important in her life were children and horses and bringing the two together. The choice of this occasion allows us to recognize her for these contributions at an event designed especially to bring young people to the equine industry. If Linda was here, she would be with these young people and would be sharing her life as an equestrian with them.

Linda was one of the major personalities in the New York State equine industry. If something was occurring in the equine industry, you could be sure that Linda had something to do with it. Combine that with her abilities as a teacher and trainer and you have one formidable personality that will definitely be missed.

We in the Horse Council worked closely with Linda on many items. For a number of years, Linda was our representative to the American Horse Council. She was instrumental in bringing all of the state horse councils together for a national meeting in Saratoga. Linda was a member of the Farm Bureau Equine Advisory Committee and also worked closely with the Horse Council and the Farm Bureau on legislative matters. If anyone has ever heard Linda expound on legislators and bill, you would know that she had never found a bill or law that she liked. But she would always work with us to make the industry prosper. She was always a team player. At Linda's recommendation, the NYSHC and AQHA co-sponsored the first every national trail ride in Central Park. Hundreds of horses and riders from many states converged at the Inn on the Green for lunch and the ride. I personally will never forget that day.

The Horse Council takes this occasion to present our lifetime achievement award to Linda. In addition, in order to perpetuate her name, we also have named that award the 'Linda Connors Lifetime Achievement Award' as noted on this antique trophy. Further the Horse Council will be donating \$1000 to the scholarship fund that AQHA is establishing in her name. We will all remember Linda for her zest for life and her ability to gallop on no matter how difficult the course.

Presentation speech at Syracuse International 2008 to Linda's family, students and friends by Diane Jones, President Emeritus NYSHC.