



Chuck Sperry

2020 KQHA Hall of Fame Inductee

Twenty years ago, the KQHA Hall of Fame inducted its first member, Orville Burtis. Since that time a total of 24 notable men and women have been honored with the recognition. In 2005 the Hall of Fame began a section to honor the great American Quarter Horses of Kansas. Fourteen horses have been inducted into the Hall of Fame. Both the people and the horses honored have left a legacy of excellence.

The purpose of the Hall of Fame is to honor individuals and horses that have made significant contributions to the KQHA, to recognize those who have had an impact on the American Quarter Horse and to serve as a lasting tribute to outstanding individuals in the Quarter

Horse industry. Today, our inductee joins a group of men and women who have dedicated an untold amount of time to representing and bettering the Kansas Quarter Horse Association. The 2020 KQHA Hall of Fame inductee is Chuck Sperry.

If you've been to any of the Quarter Horse shows in Kansas, you have no doubt met Lloyd Charles Sperry, Jr., better known as Chuck Sperry. He's the one opening and shutting arena gates, setting the trail courses, and helping out with numerous other tasks associated with shows—all while showing himself and coaching his clients.

Chuck hails from Mound Valley in Southeast Kansas, with his family moving to Altamont when he was six. Chuck has been fascinated with horses since the first time he saw them—so much so that when he was only four or five, he rode out of town on his bike and spent the day on the backs of some horses he found in a pasture. Needless to say, his parents weren't happy with the way he spent his day.

Although he played trumpet in school, was a member of the Boy Scouts, loved hunting and fishing, and even took up dance to help him recover from an injury—physical therapy was limited then, he always came back to horses.

His folks bought him his first horse when he was 10. Between his pasture riding days and his first horse, he rode everything he could get his hands on, which was probably a good thing since the horse his parents bought was one he could grow up and learn with. Chuck loved every moment of horse ownership; he belonged to the local saddle club and was on its drill team. Since he had a cousin who did a lot of roping, Chuck took that up along with pole bending. He ran a lot of 21 second patterns with a few even timed at 19. Chuck's future as a horse trainer was pretty much assured back then—he trained every horse he bought.

Chuck was out of horses for a bit when he served in the Marine Corps from 1967 to 1971. While in the Marines, he was stationed in San Diego, San Antonio, Norfolk, Newark, and Okinawa. Upon his return he went to Labette Junior College and Edmond State University in Edmond, Oklahoma. He graduated from there and earned a mortician's license, taking up his dad's trade. He moved from Altamont to Phillipsburg in 1976 and from there to Beloit in 1988.

He got back into horses in 1989 while raising a family and had success in the show pen. He started showing in AQHA shows in 1992 when his daughter Jessica got into showing and joined KQHHA. After having some more success as an amateur, he decided to turn professional and began to train horses while working other jobs. He credits Craig Cole, Jeff Mellott, and Murray Griggs with helping him the most—especially in pleasure and trail, which were new events to him.

He frequently shares his love of the outdoors, especially fishing and hunting, with his grandson, Graeson. Lukas, who is turning five soon, loves to come and help Chuck on the farm with all

Of her father's induction Jessica states, "I'm so honored and happy to witness my dad receive this award. Horses have shaped who I am. Without my dad and his commitment to the American Quarter Horse and KQHA my experiences would have been very different. I can't remember a time he didn't jump in and help. I was taught [that] being a member didn't mean receiving an award, it meant making the club better, contributing by filling a need and supporting the association by showing up regardless of whether you got anything in return.

He has spent countless hours volunteering, holding offices, offering advice, seeking ways to make KQHA unique and fun for all, and to make it a sustainable association. He has always put the horses first and has taught countless others to have the same passion and respect."

In addition to training and coaching, Chuck has also been very active in the Kansas Quarter Horse Association over the years. He was nominated for the Hall of Fame by Craig Cole who says "Chuck has been highly involved with KQHA. . .serving on the Prairie Classic Committee, Region 8 Committee and numerous other committees throughout the years. He has served as Vice-President and President. He has provided trail patterns and volunteered setting trail courses for the past several years for nearly every Quarter Horse show held in Kansas. He is an active Past President and highly involved in KQHA, and I feel a very deserving nominee for the Hall of Fame honor!"

For his outstanding dedication and service to the Kansas Quarter Horse Association and the Quarter Horse industry, it is a great honor to induct Chuck Sperry into the KQHA Hall of Fame.