

**Benny Holtzclaw**

**2000**

**Born in 1954 in Prairie Grove, Arkansas, Benny started his 33 year shooting career in 1967 at the age of 13. Benny’s shooting career started at the Mountain Home Gun Club and continued, uninterrupted, for the next ten years. His first major accomplishment came at age 15, when in 1967, he was named to Guns & Ammo’s “Honor Squad.’ A couple of years, Benny won the State Junior title with a 90/100. This was the first of eleven state titles to follow. In 1974, he won the State Doubles Championship with an impressive 97. He took the High All-Around crown in 1977. In 1978, Benny put his shooting career on hold to start his own business. He worked hard for the next ten years to bring his excavating company to the point at which he felt he could start shooting again. In 1988, with his company doing well, Benny again took the trapshooting world by storm. 1988 saw him win the State Singles and Doubles Championships. The 1989 State Handicap Championship fell to his gun, as did the open High Over-All and the High All-Around championship titles. In 1991, he won the State High Over-All. In 1992, the Singles crown was once again his, as was the High All-Around and High Over-All titles. Benny won the State Doubles in 1993 and was again the High Over-All champ. In 1999, he won two of the Class AA Doubles events and the open High Over-All. Benny’s other major wins occurred in Missouri at the Fall Handicap (1988), Oklahoma State Shoot (1989), and the Remington Classic (1992). Impressive as Benny’s shooting career is, it stands in the shadow of what truly makes him a Hall of Famer. Benny is one of the first to answer the call for help and one of the last to leave. His warm smile and friendly spirit are always present, as well as his willingness to teach others. Although a fierce competitor, Benny was, is, and always will be a gentleman and the personification of a true sportsman.**