



William Grady Harwood

April 27, 1940 - September 21, 2018

William Grady (Bill) Harwood, 78, of Pilot Point, TX, passed away in his sleep at 1:00AM on Friday, September 21, 2018, after battling a number of ailments for several months. Born in Albemarle, NC on April 27, 1940 he was the only child of William Earl and Iris (Russell) Harwood. As the first-born grandson of a large, strong, southern family he was raised not only by his parents but also by his aunts, uncles, and grandparents that were ever present in his life. He lived in North Carolina until he was in high school, when his father took a job in Texas, and they moved to the Katy area where he finished high school. His father told him when he graduated high school, that he could go to college or have that money to set up and open his own training barn. He jumped at the chance to have his own barn and began his dream of being a horse trainer. So, at the age of 18 he became one of the early Arabian horse trainers in the country. He worked as a jockey and he rode and showed KonTiki. He tried dancing, he even danced with Patrick Swayze's mother and knew Patrick when he was five years old. He knew Wayne Newton and the list goes on. Another very well-respected Western Pleasure trainer described Bill as the best Western Pleasure trainer in the country. He was one of the first trainers to don Hunter Pleasure attire because that was where the trend was going. He had many stories of his humble beginnings as a trainer, when one of his first tasks was to train an Ostrich. There was also an elephant tale of it running down the road while he was trapped under its ears. He had a long list of horses that most of us have only heard of that he had ridden or handled in

some way. He has trained in Texas and Colorado and showed all over the country. He even was invited to, and showed, in England. He worked for many farms-Act III, Manx Farms, and people like Christiansen's, Spencer's, Trees, and others, showing and training their horses and helping their kids. Traveling with kids and horses across the country, especially in the summer months, gave him many stories of different successes and stunts done by those kids. Stories like, one little girl that knocked her horse out in the barn aisle because he tried to bite her. Another of, three little girls that teamed up to sneak up and put Pop Rocks down the back of his pants and then poured water in afterward. He stayed in touch with as many as he could to the end and loved when he would hear from any of them. He truly loved each one. He was the first to be named "English Pleasure Open National Champion". That was on a horse named Bonjour in 1970. That horse belonged to the Christiansen family. He loved his life and his job, and he never complained about the choices he made. He could live on next to nothing and make it seem like he was doing very well. His animals and the ones in his care always came first and had the best he could offer them. He loved his animals. He used to have a dairy goat farm and had shown chickens. He and his mother had a pet pig (not a potbelly) that lived in the house. He also had a pet squirrel and a pheasant. He always had at least one Corgi from the time he was in his teens, not to mention the long list of other dogs and cats he owned. At one time he had some 300 birds that he raised, some of them were very colorful. He would go to bird shows and buy, sell, and trade them. He went to a horse show in Wichita one time with six horses, seven dogs with a litter of four puppies, two cats and a pot belly pig with a litter of piglets. They did not all belong to him. In 2007, he was awarded the Life Time Achievement Award from Region 9 Arabian Horse Association. He was never married but leaves behind a huge family made up of friends, past students and clients. He has raised many kids, young and old, in the horse world leading them to succeed in many ways and helped them grow into strong, accomplished adults. His celebration of life will be held 1:00PM-3:00PM, Saturday, November 10, 2018 at JM Prosperity

Farm Rustic Barn Venue, 6150 Allred Road, Argyle, TX 76226. Bill will be laid to rest in North Carolina between his mother and father. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Bill's honor to the Arabian Horseman's Distress Fund, 236 Henry Sanford Road, Bridgewater, CT 06752 or <http://www.horsemandistressfund.com/how-to-help/>. Online condolences may be shared at www.slaymemorialfuneralhome.com. Arrangements are under the direction of Terri Slay and Slay Memorial Funeral Center.

To send a flower arrangement to the family of William Grady Harwood, please [click here](#) to visit our Sympathy Store.

Tribute Wall

CG

“ Bill, was an amazing man and friend. I am so thankful that I had the privilege of him teaching me to ride and working with my horse Remington. He taught me so much, and what an awesome time we had talking and having lunch together. Thank you for all the life lessons learned, and for sharing such remarkable stories. Love from the bottom of our hearts! Cindy and Remmy

Cindy Gull - November 03, 2018 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ New Bill back in the day of the really fun times of the Arabian horse industry. I was breeding manager for Waseem Arabians. Bill was always ready to help anyone, kind and caring, knowledgeable of his craft. I know he will be missed by all who got the privilege of knowing him. Prayers to all his friends and family. Ride high in the sky Bill!

Lana Tabor Walker - October 02, 2018 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ He was a very kind person with such a love for animals. He will be missed and I am glad that I was blessed to know him in the last few years.

Stephanie Koiner - September 29, 2018 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ A great friend that was always willing to listen. He was there for me when I needed him. He helped raise my kids and grandkids. A large part of my heart, he will forever be there. My love goes with him. I know that he is up there with all his past horses, pets. Once again to be with his loving family.

Debbie McCroskey - September 26, 2018 at 12:00 AM