

Mary Dooley Perpetual Sportsmanship Award

History written by her dear friend Judy English

No one loved showing horses more than Mary-Open and AQHA shows. Mary had set a goal for herself to win a saddle that the Kentucky Quarter Horse Association (KyQHA) gave out for the High Point Open Show as a year-end award. Mary accomplished that goal and was as proud as if it were a Golden Globe trophy. She always had a smile on her face and the most sincere "Congratulations!" for every exhibitor, no matter what. Everyone still has that memory of Mary.

Mary was married to Bill Dooley (died March 2023). They enjoyed horse shows and horse sales together. She has one son Jeffrey Spencer. Her brother Ernie Ray Dowell was a horse trainer and is now an ARHA judge. Mary was a Civil Service employee at ROTC at Fort Knox until her early retirement.

She was a solid supporter of KyQHA, obtaining donations and even convinced Kroger to donate donuts to our futurities. She looked forward to the KyQHA convention every year, or "the party" as she called it. She loved getting dressed up in a new outfit and she and Bill danced the night away.

As everyone can tell you, Mary was a true joy to be around. Her bubbly laugh was very contagious as was her smile. She had that positive attitude to the very end of her life. She was the greatest best friend.

Mary died July 1, 2003, after a battle with cancer at the age of 49. She was inducted into the KyQHA Hall of Fame in 2004 and the sportsmanship award was established that same year.

This perpetual award honors the true meaning of sportsmanship which Mary embodied at every moment. The legacy that Mary created is a true testament of how much she cared for this sport and the people she met while riding.

Award Specifications

The goal of the Mary Dooley Perpetual Sportsmanship Award is to recognize amateurs who exhibit excellence and integrity by supporting their fellow competitors and volunteering their time and resources to various aspects of the industry. Examples of this include serving on committees, providing sponsorships to KYQHA shows, and promoting the welfare of the horse. Success in the show ring is a secondary factor.

Nominations for the award may come from exhibitors, trainers, colleagues or peers. The nominee must be an amateur and a member of KyQHA for the year in which they are nominated. Previous winners of the award are not eligible for further nomination; however, prior nominees are encouraged to be resubmitted for future consideration. Amateur Sportsmanship Award nominations close **October 31**. A Committee comprised of past Amateur Award recipients will review the nominations and vote on the winner annually. The award will be presented at the annual KyQHA Banquet.

Past Winners

2023 – *Not Awarded*
2022 – Amanda Bryant
2021 – *Not Awarded*
2020 – Judy English
2019 – *Not Awarded*
2018 – Gail Edwards
2017 – *Not Awarded*
2016 – Charles Langford
2015 – *Unknown if Awarded*
2014 – Stacie Thieman

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2013 – Paula Jerrell
2012 – John R. Lonneman
2011 – Donna Roberts
2010 – Lynette Davidson
2009 – Norm Luba
2008 – Lorraine A. Luba, DVM
2007 – *Unknown if Awarded*
2006 – Cheryllee Sargent
2005 – Sam Hensley

NOMINATION FORM

Nominee Name _____ Phone (_____) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ @ _____

Accomplishments:

Nominated by Name _____ Phone (_____) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ @ _____

Nominations must be postmarked by October 31 and mailed to:

**KyQHA
PO Box 85
Eastwood, KY 40018-0085**