

The Rick Flathers Sportsmanship Award

The California Reining Horse Association is seeking nominations for the “Rick Flathers Sportsmanship Award”. This award will honor a person who has distinguished themselves through demonstrated acts of sportsmanship and ethical behavior.

The “Rick Flathers Sportsmanship Award” recipient will be honored at the Challenge in October and presented by his wife Nancy Flathers, and Friends of Rick.

The “Rick Flathers Sportsmanship Award” trophy has been graciously donated by his friends and family.



About Our Dear Friend Rick.....

Richard Michael Flathers was born in Ft. Ord, California on February 26, 1950. He passed on Monday afternoon, March 7, 2016, on the trail behind his home in Orange Park Acres, following an accident while riding his horse.

In Rick's younger years, his favorite times were showing dogs and horses. He also loved to water and snow ski, roller skate, ice skate, shoot trap and skeet, and build and race R/C cars and planes.

In 1972, he met Nancy at the El Toro Stables, who became his wife and life partner. They moved to Orange Park Acres in 1977 and from then on they made horse history, in all aspect of horse competitions. After retiring from Beach Manufacturing, Rick found his love of golf, scuba diving and traveling, while always keeping his joy of riding with Nancy.

Rick was always and forever a supportive, positive, and generous member of the California Reining Horse Association. Along with his wife Nancy, Rick was an early member of the CRHA, and an enthusiastic presence at the CRHA shows, lending his outgoing, friendly, and inclusive personality to the back gate, the warm up pen and the show pen. Rick was always encouraging not only to his wife, Nancy, who was also a long time member and an avid competitor and successful Non Pro, but to his barn mates, his fellow showmen and his peers, setting an example of sportsmanship and good will that was infectious.

A member of the CRHA since its inception, Rick was not only a financial supporter, but was also happy to give his time to the CRHA Board of Directors for several years, adding value not only as a competitor, but as a business man as well, helping to shape what would ultimately become the flourishing association that is the CRHA today.

Rick is survived by his wife, Nancy, and brother, Tim. This cowboy will be sadly missed by all.

The Rick Flathers Sportsmanship Award recipient should be a champion for the sport of reining, an avid supporter and embody the following qualities:

Sportsmanship - Good sportsmanship and respect for officials and competitors, even in the face of adverse outcomes.

Encouraging - Encourages and supports others involved with all aspects of the sport of reining in and out of the show ring.

Kind/ Friendly - Always kind to fellow competitors - an overall good person.

Selfless - Willingness to put others needs ahead of themselves.

Helpful/ Willing - Shows up to events willing to volunteer and participate.

Integrity - Committed to doing what's right.

Spirited - Supportive and cheers on fellow competitors.

Positive attitude and role model - Exemplifies the good person we all aspire to be - like our friend Rick Flathers.

The recipient of this award can be anyone within the sport of reining who supports and attends CRHA events. This person does not have to be a CRHA member. This person could be a friend, youth, relative, spouse, official, staff member, or anyone who is deserving of this prestigious award.

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Only current 2017 CRHA members may nominate. Nominations must be received by October 20th.

From the nominees, selected by current CRHA members, the California Reining Horse Association's Board of Directors will make the final decision.

CRHA member (your name) _____ Membership # _____

My nomination goes to: _____

Please attach a detailed explanation and reason you feel this person is deserving of the "Rick Flathers Sportsmanship Award".

Email to: CRHAsecretary@aol.com

Fax to: 951 509 1917

Mail to: CRHA 1920 Gratton St., Riverside, CA 92504

[Please submit by October 20th](#)

