

NEWS RELEASE

For more information contact:

Elizabeth Lewis, Dye, Van Mol & Lawrence
615-594-6167 (cell) 615-780-3319 (office)
elizabeth.lewis@dvl.com

Cheryl Scutt, Saddle Up!
615-613-2501 (cell) or 613-794-1150 ext. 34 (office)
cscutt@saddleupnashville.org

October 15, 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saddle Up! to honor three fallen horse heroes

FRANKLIN, Tenn. – Saddle Up! will honor three fallen horse heroes on Saturday, Oct. 24, with a celebration of their lives. The service will take place at the Saddle Up! farm, 1549 Old Hillsboro Road, Franklin.

“The power of the horse is what makes our recreational therapeutic riding program work,” said Saddle Up! Executive Director Cheryl Scutt. “Horses give multiple opportunities for our students to increase physical, social and communications skills. The horse-human bond opens doors that many times have been locked for years. We see this on a regular basis with riders who literally speak their first words to their horses, children who have relied on wheelchairs or walkers progressing to walk on their own, and numerous other examples.

“The horses who work in this program are all special,” Scutt continued. “They serve patiently in a job that requires them to do things that are definitely out of the norm for a horse – like having up to three people around them on the ground, frequently having an unbalanced rider, and going through activities that test their natural flight response.

“It’s only fitting that we pause to acknowledge their contributions and to celebrate all the joy and accomplishments they brought, especially to our riders, and that’s the reason for the October 24 celebration,” she said.

The celebration is open to the public. It will begin at 5 p.m. and will include a blessing of the animals, stories about the horses being honored, and booklets for each horse. The three horses being remembered are:

- **King Bee.** Bee arrived at Saddle Up! in 2000 after more than two decades of service with children. He is truly a pony who did it all. He jumped fences in competitions, was in pleasure and equitation classes, and rode trails. He was Saddle Up!'s smallest pony in size, but definitely one of the biggest in heart. At Saddle Up!, he was always eager to work, as he clearly showed the day he somehow managed to get out of a pasture so he could run to the show arena where the S.U.P.E.R. show was happening. He wanted to be part of the action, not given a day off due to age. In 2006, Bee's service was recognized

with the NARHA Region 5 Horse of the Year Award. At the end of 2007 failing eyesight led to his retirement.

- **Buddy.** After a successful career as a fourth level dressage horse, Buddy came to Saddle Up! to assist participants with many tasks, from grooming and tacking to independent riding. Buddy had a smooth, steady trot and was very reliable for those learning the art of independence. Buddy served for more than four years, then happily retired at the end of the 2009 spring session. He was quickly adopted by Lori Janusky and her daughter Rebecca, where he joined former Saddle Up! stablemate Relenka.
- **Maddie.** She was a quiet pony who was a trooper in lessons. She arrived at Saddle Up! in May 2005 after having been a child's pleasure pony. Her easy going personality and steady nature resulted in her beginning to work in lessons shortly after her arrival. In addition to her work in lessons, Maddie participated in many of our off site events and was the perfect example of a therapy pony. She was the object of much, much love from the riders, volunteers and staff who were blessed to work with her during her five years of service at Saddle Up!. Standing 12-hands high with highland chestnut coloring, Maddie didn't look like she was in her mid-20s. She enjoyed good health and remained on the job until the last couple of days of her life when colic struck. Unfortunately, her condition could not be treated.

The celebration service will be the end of a busy day at Saddle Up!. The day begins with riders from Saddle Up! and five other programs competing in the annual SUPER Show, which is a day for the riders to shine and earn ribbons. At noon, Saddle Up! will present its annual awards recognizing riders, volunteers and families.

Saddle Up! is middle Tennessee's oldest and largest recreational therapeutic horseback riding program and the only one exclusively serving children who have disabilities. This year, Saddle Up! will provide more than 4,400 lessons to 187 children. It is a nonprofit organization that relies on donations, grants and fundraising events to provide almost 90 percent of its operating budget. For more information, please visit the website, www.saddleupnashville.org, or call 615-794-1150.