

HCI to Honor Horse and Horsemen

There are thousands horsemen, horsewomen and organizations in Illinois who positively influence others in the equine community and serve as examples of good sportsmanship, good horsemanship and promoting the equestrian way of life in Illinois. Also, there are thousands of Illinois horses who have impacted individual lives as well as the equine industry.

Horsemen's Council of Illinois has established two annual awards to celebrate the importance of the horse and equestrian life in our state.

Nominations for these awards will be accepted from July 1 through October 31. Honorees will be announced at Illinois Horse Fair in March. Now is the time to submit an award nomination for these special individuals, organizations and animals. The awards are sponsored by Morton Buildings.

The Paul Briney Ambassador Award

Honors an HCI member organization or an HCI individual member who has done an outstanding job of fostering and supporting the equestrian way of life in Illinois.

Eligibility:

- Individual must be an Illinois resident and at least 18 years of age.
- Organization or individual must be an HCI member.
- Organization must be Illinois-based.

Criteria:

Organization or individual demonstrates excellence and outstanding service to the equestrian community in one or more of the following categories:

- putting on events and/or providing education for the non-equestrian community to introduce them to horses
- helping to open new horse trails or provide new public horse-related amenities
- working diligently to improve or maintain existing horse related-amenities
- obtaining favorable publicity to promote an Illinois equestrian lifestyle
- use of horses in a way that engages and benefits the public

An individual or an organization may only receive the award once, and only one award will be presented each year.

The Horsemen's Council of Illinois Dust Commander Lifetime Achievement Award

Dust Commander was a small, unassuming chestnut thoroughbred born in Illinois. Though no one thought he could win, and despite getting bumped by another horse coming out of the starting gate, he won the 96th running of the Kentucky Derby in 1970. This award celebrates his achievements and seeks to honor a horse who shares Dust Commander's spirit of excellence.

An annual award honoring a horse, pony, mini, donkey, hinny or mule; to recognize special valor or outstanding competitive achievement.

Criteria:

- If the horse is being nominated for competitive achievements, the horse currently resides in Illinois. Applications from Illinois-bred horses are strongly encouraged. Outstanding results from competitions in equestrian sports including eventing, racing, reining, driving, hunter/jumper, distance riding etc. will be considered.
- If the horse is being nominated for valor or heroism, the acts must have taken place in Illinois and the horse currently resides in Illinois. Qualifying acts could include enhancing/prolonging/enriching a patients' life through an equine therapy program, valorous service as a police horse, in assisting in locating a lost person, saving another animal's or a human's life etc.
- Award may be posthumous.

Animal may only receive the award once, and only one award will be given out each year.

**We all know a deserving person or horse. Don't wait - let HCI know who they are!
NOMINATION FORM ON NEXT PAGE**