



**PRESS RELEASE**

For Release: Immediate  
January 20, 2005

Press Contact: Allison Mahan  
(858) 603 – 1681  
allison@forcefive.biz

**Ron Ralls Honored for Lifetime Achievement & Al Dunning As Equitarian**  
*Monty & Pat Roberts Proud to Honor Fellow Horsemen with Annual Awards*

Santa Ynez, CA (January 20, 2005) – On December 18, 2004 at their annual holiday party, Monty and Pat Roberts announced the 2004 recipients of their yearly horsemen awards. Ron Ralls was honored for Lifetime Achievement and Al Dunning as an Equitarian.

In 1997 Monty and Pat Roberts initiated an annual tradition of honoring two Western Trainers for outstanding achievements. One is awarded for Lifetime Achievement for the Western trainer who has accomplished enough in his lifetime to earn a place in history in this field. The other, the ‘Equitarian’ award is given to that person who has dedicated their lives to working with the horse’s mind without using force and achieving great success within the Western world through these methods.

This tradition of honoring his fellow horseman was started after Monty had been honored as the ‘Man of the Year’ by the Washington DC International Horse show and was presented with the first ‘Equitarian’ award. At the time of receiving this award, Monty decided that someone should honor Western trainers in this same manner and thus became the reason for the annual Roberts Christmas party held immediately after the NCCCHA finals in December each year at Flag Is Up Farms, Solvang, California.

*(more...)*

This year the Lifetime Achievement award was presented to Ron Ralls. Ron trained and showed in California until recent years when he moved to Texas near Gainesville, where he has his own training facility. Among a few of the highlights of Ron's numerous achievements are winning the 2003 and 2004 World's Greatest Horseman Contest; the Silvery Legacy Reno Snaffle Bit Futurity (on Captain Nice, sire of the 2004 Reno Snaffle Bit Futurity); the Florida Snaffle Bit Futurity in 2003 and 2004; the Georgia Snaffle Bit Futurity and the Ardmore Snaffle Bit Futurity; Reserve Reno Snaffle Bit Futurity 2003; Salinas Bridle Class and the Salinas Hackamore Class.

This year Ron had a double celebration inasmuch as he was here in California to spend Christmas with his new father and mother-in-law, the Pollards of Santa Maria. Ron and Patty Pollard were married shortly after the 2004 Reno Snaffle Bit Futurity where Ron showed and placed high in the finals. Son, Phillip Ralls was there to proudly watch his dad receive his honor.

The 'Equitarian' award was unanimously given to the highly thought of and choice of his peers, Al Dunning of Arizona. Al's outstanding achievements are so vast that it's almost overwhelming to list. But the highlights of Al's outstanding career do include 21 World Championship Titles; being awarded 1996 AZHA Professional Horseman of the Year, the 2003 NCHA Zane Schulte Trainer of the Year and 9 AQHA Championships. In addition, Al has won championships in the NCHA, NRHA, PCCHA and NRCHA. He is the author of best selling books on Reining and has produced and participated in six educational and/or promotional films.

Al, with his wife, Becky, came to California and was honored to have so many good friends in attendance to pay tribute to his great achievements. There were over 350 fans of both Western trainers at the awards ceremony. Ron and Al join other past recipients of both awards, which include Greg Ward, Crawford Hall, Sheila Varian, Leon Harrel, Ronnie Richards, Richard Shrake, Tom Marvel, John Brazil, Bobby Ingersoll, Bobby Avila, Ted Robinson and John Ward. Equitarian Posthumous award recipients include Tom and Bill Dorrance, Don Dodge, Ray Hackworth, Lola Galli, Clyde Kennedy and Jimmy Williams.

*(more...)*

### **About Monty Roberts**

Monty Roberts first gained widespread fame with the release of his New York Times Best Selling book, “The Man Who Listens To Horses”; a chronicle of his life and development of his non-violent horse training methods called Join-Up®. Monty grew up witnessing firsthand traditional and often violent methods of horse training and breaking the spirit with an abusive hand. Today, Monty’s goal is to share his message that “Violence is never the answer.” Join-Up® philosophies can be seen at work with both humans and horses across the world, from farms to major corporations. To learn more about Monty Roberts or the many applications of his Join-Up training methods, visit [www.montyroberts.com](http://www.montyroberts.com) or call (805) 688 - 6288.

###