April 22, 2012 is a day that will forever live in the United States Equestrian Team’s history, and it was thanks to one man ending a 25-year drought. At the 2012 FEI Rolex FEI World Cup Finals, Rich Fellers and his incredible mount, Flexible, owned by Harry and Mollie Chapman, topped a two-horse jump-off after five rounds of competition. The last winners of this event for the United States were Katherine Burdsall and The Natural in 1987. But with his little horse that could, Fellers brought home the win once again.

“It’s a difficult feeling to describe, it’s a unique, very special feeling,” said Fellers after his victory. “I went in there thinking I’ve got to win this, because I may not have another shot with Flexible, and he’s been just a great horse. I think it’s great for the sport in our country. Regardless of who broke the 25-year drought, the win should just give the United States a little boost.”

Rich Fellers and Flexible End 25-Year World Cup Drought

By Rebecca Walton
NOMINATED ENTRIES
FOR THE 2012 OLYMPIC GAMES

SHOW JUMPING
Four Team Members / One Travelling Reserve in Ranked Order
1. Rich Fellers on Mollie and Harry Chapman’s Flexible
2. Beezie Madden on Coral Reef Ranch’s Coral Reef Via Volo
3. Reed Kessler on her own Cylana
4. McLain Ward on Grant Road Partners’ Antares F
5. Charlie Jeyne on Pony Lane Farm’s Chili RZ
6. Beezie Madden on Abigail Wexner’s Simon
7. Reed Kessler on her own Mika
8. Laura Kraut on Cherry Knoll Farm’s Cedric
9. Margie Engle on Griese, Garber, Gladewinds and Hidden Creek’s Indigo
10. Kent Farrington on RCG Farm’s Uceko
11. Christine McCrea on Windsor Show Stables’ Romantovich Take One
12. Lucy Davis on Old Oak Farm’s Nemo 119
13. Mario Deslauriers on Jane Forbes Clark’s Cella
14. Katie Dinan on Grant Road Partners’ Nougat du Vallet

DRESSAGE
Three Team Members, One Individual and One Travelling Reserve in Ranked Order
1. Steffen Peters on Four Winds Farm’s Ravel
2. Tina Konyot on her own Calecto V
3. Steffen Peters on Four Winds Farm’s Legolas 92
4. Jan Ebeling on Ann Romney, Beth Meyer and Amy Ebeling’s Rafalca
5. Adrienne Lyle on Peggy ‘Thomas’ Wizard
6. Todd Flettrich on Cherry Knoll Farm’s Otto
7. Heather Blitz on her own Paragon
8. Guenter Seidel on Toyon Farm’s Fandango
9. Pierre St. Jacques on his own Lucky Tiger
10. Kathleen Raine on Jennifer Mason and David Wightman’s Breanna
11. Shawna Harding on her own Come On III
12. Susan Blinks on the Minnesota Group’s Robin Hood
13. Jim Koford on Shirley McQuillan’s Rhett

EVENTING
Five Team Members in Alpha Order
Will Coleman and Jim Wildasin’s Twizzel
Tiana Coudray on Jatial, Inc’s Ringwood Magister
Phillip Dutton on Bruce Duchossais’ Mighty Nice
Phillip Dutton on Jim and Arden Wildasin’s Mystery Whisper
Will Faudree on Jennifer Mosing’s Andromaque
Sinead Halpin on Carrig LLC’s Manoir de Carneville
Boyd Martin on the Neville Bardos Syndicate’s Neville Bardos
Boyd Martin on the Otis Barbotiere Syndicate’s Otis Barbotiere
Boyd Martin on Henley House Stables’ Remington XXV
Clark Montgomery on Holly Becker and Kathryn Kraft’s Loughan Glen
Karen O’Connor on Mr. Medicott Syndicate’s Mr. Medicott
Allison Springer Carole and William Springer’s Arthur

PARALYMPICS
Four Team Members in Ranked Order
1. Rebecca Hart and Jessica Ransehousen’s Lord Luder
2. Jonathan Wentz and Kai Handt’s NTEC Richter Scale
3. Donna Ponessa and Wesley Dunham’s Western Rose
4. Dale Dedrick and her own Bonifatius
5. Donna Ponessa and Vincereos Therapeutic Riding Center’s PG Ganda
6. Jonathan Wentz and Michele Miles’ Silvano
7. Mary Jordan and Deecie Denison’s Sebastian
8. Rebecca Hart and Jessica Ransehousen’s Carlingfords Taldi
9. Wendy Fryke and her own Lateran
10. Elizabeth Pigott and Regina Cristo’s One Night Stand
11. Mary Jordan and her own P. Sparrow Socks
12. Robin Brueckmann and her own Radetzky

* Withdrawn
Fellers and 16-year-old Flexible entered the two-round final in a two-way tie for second with Switzerland’s Steve Guerdat and Nino Des Buissonnets, while the other Swiss rider, Pius Schwizer, held the lead with Carlina. All three riders had already laid down two days of stellar performances. During the first round of the final day, Guerdat and Fellers each posted clear efforts to retain their one-fault totals. Schwizer was very careful, and while leaving all the rails in place, had a costly single time fault that brought him back into a three-way tie for the lead as they headed into the second round.

With the audience holding their breath at the end of the second round, Guerdat was the first to go and went clear to become the new leader. The pressure was on Fellers and Flexible to go clear and return for a jump-off, or end up in a secondary spot on the podium. But they did, and with style and ease—a jump-off was in place. Schwizer had the opportunity to make it a three-horse jump-off, but Carlina lowered the height of the vertical in the double combination to add four faults to their score, for a five-fault total and the third place award.

The jump-off became the real nail biter, and it all came down to the final tenths of a second. Guerdat tackled the track first, and he executed the round beautifully, adding no faults to his score and clocking in at an efficient 26.61.

All of the pressure was on Fellers. He finished second to Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum and Shutterfly five years ago in Göteborg, Sweden with Flexible, and this time he wanted the win. In the end, the Irish Sporthorse proved to be up to the task, twisting and leaping over each fence, and proving just fast enough with a time of 25.97 seconds. Three clear rounds by two incred-
ible horses in one day, but it was Fellers and Flexible that were simply the best, earning the World Cup title and leading the lap of victory.

“I have to say that Steve was very fast,” admitted Fellers. “I hopped off Flexible and hurried so I could watch. He was quick. I know Flexible very well; I’ve had him for years. He’s quick across the ground, I don’t know Steve’s horse that well, he looked quick. I just trusted that I could do the same numbers and a very similar track and be faster, and I was lucky.”

Flexible has been partnered with Fellers for ten years since the talented stallion was just six years old, and they have competed at the World Cup Finals five times. “Flexible was, as a younger horse, extremely excitable,” he noted. “He’s very quick, twitchy. He used to kick himself in the hind legs all the time. He’s kind of a wild character, but he’s gradually mellowed as he’s matured. He’s
like a pet, I love him and he loves me, we have a great relationship and we know each other very well.”

Fellers continued, “Flexible is quite scopey. You watch him jump through that triple, he’s always been scopey for his size. He’s barely 16 hands. He has matured, he knows me better and I know him better. The foundation to that whole idea is that the horse has been spared and not shown, and shown, and shown, because otherwise he would be out in a field breeding. Most 16-year-old horses are not in this sport anymore. I think a big credit to the people in my program and our system of not showing so much has paid off.”

Although Fellers and Flexible had an incredible performance over the week, the overall performance from the United States was very disappointing. Richard Spooner had a tremendous week on his other mounts, which included two speed victories with Billy Bianca, but his rounds in the World Cup Finals with Show Jumping Syndicates’ Cristallo were not as successful. He finished with a total of 26 faults and was the next highest-ranking American rider in 16th place.

Beezie Madden and Abigail Wexner’s Cortes ‘C’ were right behind Spooner in the 17th spot. They had remained consistent through most of the competition, but a major issue at the triple combination during the final round proved very costly. Kent Farrington and RCG Farm’s Uceko were the final horse and rider combination to place for the United States in 18th.

Fellers’ and Flexible’s victory in the 2012 Rolex FEI World Cup Finals was a truly historic moment for the United States, and their performance will be unforgettable. As the 2012 London Olympics approach, their success continued at the Del Mar National Horse Show, where they won both of the U.S. Show Jumping Team Observation Events, the $100,000 Hermes Grand Prix of Del Mar and the $50,000 Surfside Grand Prix, proving that this pair is in the best form of their lives.
BEHIND THE SCENES
At the World Cup Final

BY KATIE DINAN

This April, as the recipient of the USET Foundation’s Maxine Beard Award, I traveled with the US Show Jumping delegation to the World Cup Finals in ‘s-Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands. I was looking forward to watching many of the best riders and horses in the sport and the special opportunity to accompany George H. Morris throughout the competition. In addition, I was excited to gain behind the scenes experience at a major championship event.

I arrived in Amsterdam on Tuesday morning and joined Robert Ridland, our incoming team “coach” on the train to ’s-Hertogenbosch (known as “den Bosch”), where we met Lizzy Chesson, USEF Director of High Performance Show Jumping. We headed to Indoor Brabant, the facility hosting the World Cup Finals, which was comprised of an impressive number of halls containing the main show arena, several warm-up areas, spacious stabling, and many vendor set-ups. The USA set-up at the back of the stabling area took up almost an entire aisle, which was proudly draped with USA banners. I accompanied Lizzy to the show office, which we would visit several times a day to make sure that the USA’s paperwork was in order, the horses were declared for their classes, and for daily schedules and order-of-go lists. Later that day, the main arena opened for schooling, and I watched many of the world’s best riders prepare their horses. The day concluded with a Rolex Riders Meeting.

The excitement heated up when competition began on Wednesday, which featured a class that many riders were using as a warm-up for the finals. I walked the course and watched the class with George and we discussed how to ride the course as either a competitive speed round or a warm-up for the rest of the week. While watching the class, he pointed out different styles of riding and of horses among the international competitors. That evening we attended the Riders Reception, which featured the draw for the first round of the finals.

The World Cup Finals began on Thursday, and the Indoor Brabant became abuzz with energy and filled with spectators. For the rest of the week, the U.S. delegation (George Morris, Robert Ridland, Lizzy Chesson and me, tagging along) arrived every morning in time to check in with all the U.S. riders and then watch all the events, including several classes in the 3* division as well as the World Cup Dressage. George articulated that he was a firm believer in how much one could gain as an educated spectator. He made the effort to discuss what I could learn from each round, including the dressage, and shared a wealth of show jumping anecdotes. After watching the day sessions, we returned to the stabling area, where the USA riders and grooms were preparing for the evening sessions of the World Cup. The team vet, Dr. Tim Ober, was there to answer any concerns, and George checked in with all the riders.

Once the World Cup started, the show jumping became very exciting. After I walked the first round, the speed leg, I went over my “plan” with George, and we discussed where horses of different strengths and weaknesses could make up time. The USA contingent sat together and enthusiastically cheered on our riders. When Flexible and Rich Fellers blazed to the win and started off the week with a USA victory, there was much enthusiasm among Team USA members for the week to come.

The weekend was a fantastic showcase of show jumping. As I walked the courses, I thought about making a plan on my own horses as if I were competing. I hoped to learn as much as I could from George’s wealth of knowledge as we discussed possible striding and particularly difficult parts of the course. The opportunity to then watch so many great horse and rider combinations navigate the tracks was a unique learning experience for me.

The highlight of an exciting week was being the first Maxine Beard recipient to witness a USA victory. Even though the World Cup is an individual championship, there was definitely a team attitude as the U.S. delegation cheered for Rich Fellers through double clear rounds on the final day. There was dead silence as Flexible went in for the jump-off, and contagious excitement when he secured the victory.

My week at the World Cup both better educated me as a rider and as a horseperson. I watched a great display of show jumping, learned so much about the logistics of competing at this level, and garnered invaluable knowledge from George Morris and the U.S. delegation. I am so thankful to the USET Foundation and those involved with the Maxine Beard Award for making this trip such a memorable one.
REBECCA HART
Claims 5th Para Dressage National Championship

Everyone working toward earning a medal in London this summer has to be determined. But the riders hoping to make the team for the Paralympics need a double dose of resolve as they seek to overcome their physical challenges, while trying to get the best performance out of their horses.

For three special and inspirational days, Paralympic candidates competed in their Trials and National Championships at the Pine Meadow section of the United States Equestrian Team Foundation’s Gladstone facility. Pine Meadow earned universal acclaim as a driving venue, with the ultimate accolades awarded when the 1993 World Pairs Championship was held there.

In recent years, Pine Meadow, just minutes from the Foundation’s stables, has been little used, but it was groomed to perfections for the Para competition June 11-13 during the break in the Olympic dressage trials. With parking located conveniently just across the street a constant stream of golf carts ferried competitors back and forth. The riders had their own version of the VIP tent just feet from the show ring, making for a hassle-free experience.

The only wrinkle was rain on the middle day of their Trials. No strangers to adversity, the riders simply persevered through the downpour, treating the weather as just another situation to overcome. Their support crews and coach Missy Ranshousen were there to help, but when the riders got out alone in the arena, it was all up to them.

Rebecca Hart continued her run as National Champion, taking her fifth title with a stellar final ride aboard Lord Ludger. One of the judges gave her a 79% for her freestyle ride. Her reaction? “Sheer excitement, because I made Missy cry, for a good reason,” she said with a smile.

Hart has a genetic muscle-wasting disease, but she has not let it stop her. She became involved with para-equestrian in 1998 and rode in the 2008 Paralympics. While she looks forward to representing the U.S. again in London, it has not been easy to get together with Lord Ludger, a 20-year-old Holsteiner.

“LoLu and I had quite the road to get here. I got him about a year ago,” said Hart, who competes in FEI Grade II. “He had a little bit of a reputation; he’d always been ridden by professional able-bodied riders and I had seen him be pretty naughty.”

Once the Pennsylvania rider mustered the nerve to work with him, “It was a little bit of a learning curve; it wasn’t one of those things where I sat on him and we instantly fell in love with each other, but I feel like over the year as we progressed and have done more together. LoLu has really become my horse, which is a really special feeling, because he’s so talented. He’s such a character. I really enjoy him not only as a horse, but as a partner.”

Jonathan Wentz, the reserve champion in a close finish, won the title last year. A Texas resident who has cerebral palsy, works at North Texas Equestrian Center, where he rides. The Southern Methodist University student won the Grade 1B Division aboard NTEC Richter Scale, his special partner, and was second with a new horse, Silvano.

At age 18, Richter “has really stepped up to the plate,” he said, noting that he originally felt the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games would be his last hurrah. Now he’s looking at going to London, and as Wentz noted, that would put a final piece of glitter on his impressive resume.

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Third in the trials and championships went to Donna Ponessa, a Grade 1A rider who leaves her breathing device behind when she gets in the saddle. Although she rode as a child, she did not pick up the sport again until more than two decades after being diagnosed with Devic disease, a rare form of multiple sclerosis. She won her placing with Western Rose, a third-level horse who “has that ‘wow’ factor and a great walk,” which is especially important at her grade. Ponessa works as a manager at an independent living center in New York.

Dr. Dale Dedrick of Michigan, a Grade II rider who was an orthopedic surgeon until Lupus ended her career, finished fourth in the Trials with Bonifatius, who has a mind of his own. “I was thrilled with my horse. He stepped up to the plate when he didn’t want to, necessarily, and did everything I asked,” the Michigan resident said.

The Nominated Entries for the Paralympic Games are Rebecca Hart with Lord Ludger, Jonathan Wentz with NTEC Richter Scale, Donna Ponessa with Western Rose and Dale Dedrick with Bonifatius. – Nancy Jaffer
The three-stop 2012 Show Jumping European Young Rider tour began in Bonheiden, Belgium. Following a number of excellent finishes in the early week classes, the United States’ Nations Cup team, under the guidance of Chef D’Equipe Anne Kursinski, finished in a tie for fourth place on Saturday afternoon.

The 2012 Young Rider team was comprised of Alise Oken of Charlotte, NC, Annie Cook of Woodside, CA, Jennifer Goddard based in Fort Solanga, NY, and Lydia Ulrich of Rochester, NY. Scoring a total of 32 faults, the young team finished tied with the hometown squad from Belgium. Oken was a standout for the United States. Riding the Hi Hopes Farm’s 14-year-old Selle Francais gelding, Kaid Du Ry, Oken was double clear over the challenging Nations Cup track, one of only two double clear efforts produced by any rider during the two round competition.

“The course for the Nations Cup, I thought, was very difficult and scopey, with a big triple combination, tricky water jump, and tight time allowed,” Oken said. “My horse, Kaid, was fresh that day, and is usually fast so I didn’t have to think about the time allowed too much. He performed wonderfully over the two rounds, and I was very pleased with our one of only two total double clear efforts. I think the time allowed combined with the height of the course got others in the end.”

Ulrich, who had two knockdowns in the first round, came back with a solid four fault performance in round two aboard Santos Utopia, a 13-year-old Dutch Warmlblood gelding, owned by Beth Congel and Up the Creek Farm. Meanwhile, Californian Annie Cook had rounds of 12 and 8 on Banba, owned by Signe Ostby. Banba is a 11-year-old Irish Sport Horse mare. The fourth rider, Jennifer Goddard and Stateside Farm’s Unique helped out the United States’ effort as well. Goddard was on fire earlier in the week in Bonheiden, winning two classes with Stateside Farm’s Ungaro de la Hot Couture and finishing third in another with Unique.

The only Junior rider on the this year’s tour was sensational during her first week overseas. Sydney Shulman of Greenwich, CT, scored big-time wins three days in a row. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Shulman was victorious with Maria Werner’s Zimza La Bim. On Thursday, her win came over a huge starting field of 81 other riders.

“Individually, we did superbly, winning five classes and placing in many more, and it was great to hear the anthem play when one of us won a class,” Oken continued. “Overall I think it was a successful and educational weekend. I can’t thank the USEF Foundation enough for their generous support for this team, and making the trip a possibility.”

Two weeks later, the tour moved on to Reims, France, as the month of May drew to a close. The experience of the first week proved valuable as the team of Oken, Cook, Reid and Ulrich improved to a strong second place finish. Double clear rounds from both Ulrich and Cook led the way as the USA team moved up from their third place spot after round one. Anchoring the team, Ulrich put in two brilliant rounds with Beth Congel and Up The Creek Farm’s Santos Utopia. Cook, as the second to go, guided Banba to two spotless performances as well.

Oken had her first knockdowns of the tour in the first round of the Nations Cup, but came back strong with her third clear ride in four rounds of team action in Europe on Kaid Du Ry. Riding in her first Nations Cup, Chloe Reid of Washington, DC, had two rounds of eight with her own mount, Toulon.

Chef D’Equipe for the second event, Michelle Grubb, detailed the European Junior and Young Rider Tour efforts in France. “We had two double clears, which was fantastic. I was thrilled with their performances. All the girls rode really well under pressure. It was a tough class and nail-biting to the end. It was great, down to the very last riders,” she said.
Grubb added, "We were tied for third after the first round, so we really pulled ourselves up in the second round. Unfortunately, we couldn’t quite get there for the win, but we’ll be ready in Hagen."

And ready they had to be, as the team from the U.S. drew the first spot among the top eleven European Young Riders teams that lined up for the Hagen stop on the tour in Germany.

The squad was comprised of tour veterans Alise Oken, Annie Cook, and Lydia Ulrich and last minute replacement for the final event, Catherine Pasmore.

Following their excellent second place finish at Reims a week earlier, the U.S. squad duplicated that effort again in Hagen. Coming out of round one, the U.S. found itself atop the standings, tied for the lead with France and Norway, all with eight faults.

As the second round unfolded however, France had only a single knockdown added to their second round score sheet to seal the victory. The Americans again had eight faults to finish with another strong second place finish.

In coming in at the last moment, Pasmore, of Wellington, FL, a veteran of last year’s Young Rider tour, was sensational as the team’s leadoff rider. Aboard Pasmore Stables’ Z Canta, the competent and composed Pasmore registered one of only two double clear rounds on the day in an event that saw nearly seventy rides over a very challenging course. "Unfortunately, we added eight faults to our total score, while France was able to keep their second round score to only four. Last year we finished third, this year second, next year we have to win!" smiled a very happy Catherine Pasmore.

Lydia Ulrich was rock solid as well at Hagen, completing two beautiful rounds of only four faults on Santos Utopia.

Alise Oken, competing in her third Nations Cup, improved to an excellent four faults in round two, after a disappointing two knockdown ride in the first round on Kaid du Ry. Annie Cook started strong with Banba, but faded in the second round.

"The girls did a great job and with a little luck we would have won,” said Chef D’ Equeipe Michelle Grubb. “These girls have really come together as a team and are a great group. We are very happy to have finished second behind the French, It was great sport.”

Earlier in the week, Junior rider, Sydney Shulman captured the Prize of Sparkasse Osnabrück with John Madden Sales’ Little Lady D’elle and Oken and Cook scored a one-two finish in the Prize of Elektro Niemeyer on Marcus Quintus and Landkorn 5, respectively.

“Michelle is a great chef, she works very hard at helping the whole team succeed to the best of our ability,” Pasmore added. “She gave us all an extra incentive and said if we win the Nations Cup or Grand Prix, she would voluntarily dive into the water jump! We were so close!” she laughed.

“I went on the Young Rider tour last year, and was very grateful the USEF Foundation supported such an educational experience. This year, I did not plan to take part in the tour, but a minor setback with one of the horses left an open space on the team. I am based in Europe right now, very close to Hagen, so I was happy to fill in and join the team at their last show. It was a great group of girls,” concluded Pasmore. ” – Kenneth Kraus
It came down to rails and time faults, but Great Britain’s William Fox-Pitt emerged the victor of the 2012 Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event CCI**** with Parklane Hawk. Fox-Pitt is no newcomer to winning the Rolex, having won aboard Cool Mountain in 2010, but this is the first time he has proven triumphant for two legs of the Rolex Grand Slam of Eventing.

In November 2011, Fox-Pitt guided his mount to the Land Rover Burghley Horse Trials CCI****, beginning his run for the Grand Slam. The prestigious event comes with a prize of $350,000 for any rider who consecutively wins Rolex, Badminton and Burghley in any order. Fox-Pitt’s win has now earned him the opportunity to become the second rider in the history of the event to win the Grand Slam, with Pippa Funnell having been the first in 2003.

Allison Springer held the lead after the dressage phase with the 13-year-old Irish Sport Horse Arthur, but 3.2 seconds were incurred for her careful and conservative effort over the cross-country course. This moved Fox-Pitt to the top of the leaderboard. When Springer had an unfortunate rail during the jumping test, it provided Fox-Pitt with a little bit of cushion as he saw the room to best the competition and win the championship. Even though Parklane Hawk knocked down the first part of the double combination, his speed proved effective as they rose above Springer and took the top spot.

For her second place finish, Springer was not only awarded the United States Equestrian Team Foundation’s Pinnacle Cup as the highest placed American, but she also won an 18-month lease on a Range Rover for being the highest-placed North American rider. Her mount, Arthur, was presented the coveted “Best Conditioned” award, a desirable honor among the competitors.
It also became apparent that the pair has really come a long way together, working to overcome any mishaps they may have had in previous years. Springer is hoping that the second-place finish at Rolex will also go a long way toward a possible U.S. team spot at the 2012 Olympics.

"Four years ago, in 2008, I went into show jumping with five rails in hand, and at some point stopped counting because we had so many down," said Springer. "I was excited to come in the show jumping ring, and was confident in my ride; my best was going to have to be good enough. It’s hard in those clutch moments, but we’re finally coming together."

Springer added, "I cannot thank the USEF Foundation enough for the honor of the Pinnacle Cup. With it being an Olympic year, the Rolex event really proved that America has the riders and horses to bring home the individual and team medals. Hopefully the team will call on me, and I will be able to support our country in London."

Fox-Pitt’s win sealed the championship for Great Britain for the third year in a row; however, the Americans held their ground for the remaining top five. Boyd Martin and Otis Barbotiere took the third place prize, Karen O’Connor and Mr. Medicott took fourth, and Will Coleman aboard Twizzel secured the fifth place finish.

Boyd also looks forward to the possibility of earning a spot on the United States Olympic team. He has four horses in contention for the Olympics, including Otis Barbotiere, for the selectors to choose from when they’re putting the team for London together. If one thing is obvious from the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event, it is simply that the competition is fierce and the event proved more demanding than some may have anticipated—only 27 of the 57 riders made it to the show jumping, and among those, a mere five were able to make it through the technical show jumping course without rails down. — Kendall Bierer

**FINAL ROLEX RESULTS:**

1. William Fox-Pitt (GBR) Parklane Hawk
2. Allison Springer (USA) Arthur
3. Boyd Martin (USA) Otis Barbotiere
4. Karen O’Connor (USA) Mr. Medicott
5. Will Coleman (USA) Twizzel
6. Jonathan Paget (NZL) Clifton Promise
7. Andrew Nicholson (NZL) Qwanza
8. Boyd Martin (USA) Remington XXV
9. Marilyn Little-Meredith (USA) RF Demeter
10. Phillip Dutton (USA) Mighty Nice
The USEF Foundation headquarters in Gladstone, NJ has hosted many great competitions over the decades, but few have run as flawlessly as June’s nine-day United States Equestrian Federation Dressage Festival of Champions.

The competition featured Olympic Selection Trials that ran over two weekends on the meticulously manicured grounds, sandwiching the Paralympic trials that were held in Gladstone for the first time. Everything went smoothly, with just a single day of rain that fell during the Paralympic competition, as moderate temperatures made things comfortable for riders and horses.

“Even the weather is cooperating,” said Anne Gribbons, the USEF Dressage Technical Adviser, who was happy with the whole package. “The place is beautiful. It’s never been prettier and the footing is great,” she observed, as riders complimented the luxury accommodations their horses enjoyed in the historic stable, with its large stalls and polished brass flourishes. It was the perfect backdrop for the epic equestrian battle to see who would earn their way to London and a shot at the most coveted prize of all.

Steffen Peters, the top-rated American rider in the world standings, did not have to bring Four Winds Farm’s Ravel back East for the Trials. That horse’s sparkling resume entitled him to be excused and remain home in California to rest up for the Games. But fans were delighted to be able to see Peters in action on Ravel’s understudy, Legolas 92, another Four Winds horse, as the rider defended his 2011 national Grand Prix title on the 10-year-old Westphalian. His presence was a draw for spectators, but the crowd
on the final day of the Trials grew for another reason: publicity from satirist Stephen Colbert’s viral video that made light of the sport and the involvement of Ann Romney, wife of presidential candidate Mitt Romney. Mrs. Romney, along with Amy Ebeling and Beth Meyer, owns Rafalca, a 15-year-old Oldenburg mare who tried out successfully for the team with rider Jan Ebeling in the irons.

The USEF organized a humorous rebuttal video after the championship awards, taking the foam finger Colbert used to poke fun in his skit and turning the tables on him with the concept. A rush order produced hundreds of red foam fingers, printed with the message, “Dressage is #1,” that were handed out to the crowd. Everyone jammed in to wave them behind an excited Ann Romney.

The Trials did not belong to Peters entirely. Although he did win his sixth national Grand Prix championship, he had to work hard to stay just ahead of his 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games teammate, Tina Konyot, on her own exciting black Danish-bred stallion, Calecto V. She topped the second Grand Prix of the series with a dynamic presentation, giving Peters an extra push to work even harder so he could pull out the title on the final day of competition. In the end, less than a point separated the two after four tests that counted 25% each.

Peters, Konyot and Ebeling, who finished third, will form the Olympic team. Adrienne Lyle, the youngest participant at age 27, made a great statement in her first Trials experience. She finished fourth on Peggy Thomas’ Wizard, which means she will compete in London for the individual medals, because there are only three riders on a team. Lyle is coached by Debbie McDonald, the USEF’s developing coach, who was an Olympic medalist with another Thomas horse, the iconic Brentina.

Having two Grands Prix and two Grand Prix Specials over the course of two weekends is demanding, but as Gribbons noted, it’s necessary to insure that the U.S. sends a capable squad. “We’re looking for consistency, as well as a great performance,” she said. “We don’t want it to be something that only happens once; they have to be able to produce it over and over.”

Peters also rode in the Intermediare I championship, this time aboard Margaret Koerner’s Sundance 8. At the age of eight, he noted, the talented chestnut Hanoverian is “just a kid” who’s still learning his trade. He had to settle for fourth place in the division, which was won by the personable Adrienne Lyle and Wizard

Photo by SusanJStickle.com
Caroline Roffman, on her own Hanoverian, Pie, named after the horse in the movie, “National Velvet.” Roffman, who won the 2011 Brentina Cup at Gladstone, is a professional horsewoman in Wellington, FL.

Peters got some consolation after losing the title, though, as David Blake, who trains out of his stable in San Diego, wound up as reserve champion with the handsome Oldenburg stallion, Royal Prinz. Local New Jersey rider Heather Mason won the division’s freestyle with her Dutchbred Warsteiner, as he said farewell to the I-1 ranks and moves on to Grand Prix. She finished third overall.

The Young Rider title went to another Peters protégé, Brandi Roenick aboard Pretty Lady, who was reserve in the division last year. “When a student comes out of the ring and does well, the feeling is just as good as if you did well with your own horse. Brandi did a great job,” said Peters. Roenick lives with Peters and his wife, Shannon, and makes their lives easy, Peters noted, adding that she does the dishes and helps clean the house.

As the 2012 Festival ended, Roenick appeared in the arena once again to perform a demonstration musical freestyle with Weltino’s Magic. She was headed for the North American Junior and Young Rider Championships with the horse, who earned two Gold medals at the Pan American Games with Steffen aboard. She’s hoping he can help her secure a third NAJYRRC medal.

Brian Hafner, who won the Brentina Cup for Young Adults with the 13-year-old Lombardo LHF, is very grateful for the opportunity provided by the division. He explained that aspiring riders aren’t quite ready to compete with the horses and riders like those who participated in the Selection Trials. “It’s just a different level,” he explained. A professional who works in California, he bought his horse as a four-year-old and trained the Hanoverian himself. His goal is to someday represent the U.S. in the World Cup Finals.

In the junior ranks, energetic Ayden Uhlir took the title on her Dutchbred Sjapoer, but did not rest on her laurels. The 17-year-old Texan, who has participated in the Emerging Dressage Athletes Program, put up signs around the showgrounds advertising her services in stripping stalls, so she could earn money to buy a new pair of breeches she wanted. The entrepreneurial Uhlir explained she does not like asking her parents for money.

Barbara (Bebe) Davis, a New Jersey rider, took both the championship and reserve in the Pony Championship with Poldy 10, a German Riding Pony and Bohdjan, a Dutchbred pony. The pony division, which was not well populated last year at the Festival, had a good turnout this time, attesting to the growing popularity of dressage with the younger set. – Nancy Jaffer
The Road to London led through New Jersey’s scenic Somerset Hills, where the United States Equestrian Team Foundation hosted athletes, officials, horse owners and other supporters at a convivial and relaxing party in Peapack, NJ, during the Dressage Festival of Champions.

Guests at the gathering, sponsored by Taylor Harris Insurance Services (THIS), enjoyed one of the state’s best views, sweeping green vistas visible from the stately 40-room Tudor mansion that dominates the hilltop at Natirar. The estate, whose name is an anagram for Raritan (the river that runs through it), is from the same storied era as the Foundation’s home at Hamilton Farm, just a few miles away.

Kate Macy Ladd and her husband, Walter, who put the estate together, were among the key couples of the area’s golden age during the early 20th Century, along with James Cox Brady, the founder of Hamilton Farm. Natirar was bought in the 1980s by the King of Morocco before being sold to Somerset County as a park. Plans call for a resort and spa on a portion of the land leased by a partnership which includes Virgin Atlantic founder Sir Richard Branson.

The mansion features a wide veranda, perfect for mingling, which opens onto a vast lawn. A guitar player strummed quiet tunes as waiters moved through the crowd with plates of hors d’oeuvres. Those attending had their choice of sitting at tables on the grass or wandering through the building’s spacious, wood-paneled rooms, where the food included a choice of antipasto, an Asian station and sliders with all the fixings.

The evening’s brief program included short pep talks by USET Foundation Chairman Armand Leone Jr. and Michael Harris of THIS, cheering on the teams that will compete at the Games in Greenwich Park this summer, and thanking those who have supported the squads.

As the Olympic Selection Trials drew to an end, the evening provided a nice break in the action for competitors. USET Foundation Trustees Margaret Duprey, Betsy Juliano, Debbie McDonald and Bill Weeks were among those who circulated through the crowd. Olympic candidates also in attendance were Katherine Bateson-Chandler, Jan Ebeling, Todd Fletrich, Tina Konyot, Adrienne Lyle, Cesar Parra, Lauren Sammis, Guenter Seidel and Pierre St. Jacques, plus dressage Technical Advisor Anne Gribbons and Chef d’Equipe Eva Salomon. Several para-athletes also were on hand, among them Donna Ponessa and Eleanor Brimmer.

Those attending loved the party, with many staying until fireflies began punctuating the darkening skies. You could feel the tension of a long week lifting as friends connected and new contacts were made.

“We were fortunate to have this underwritten by Taylor Harris Insurance Services so we could provide a fun and relaxing evening for everyone involved with the Festival of Champions, and particularly the Selection Trials,” said Bonnie Jenkins, the Foundation’s Executive Director. “We wanted to applaud the athletes and owners and wish them well while showing our support and appreciation for all that they do,” she continued.

“It was meant to be a night they could enjoy and then get back the next morning giving their best to try and make the team.”

– Nancy Jaffer

USET Foundation and Taylor Harris Insurance Services Host “LIFT OFF TO LONDON” PARTY

Adrienne Lyle, Lisa Snyder, Katherine Bateson-Chandler, Debbie McDonald, Jane Thomas and Mette Rosencrantz

Photo by Maureen Pethick

Michael Taylor, Bill and Olivia Weeks

Jane Thomas, Amy, Ben and Jan Ebeling with Beth Meyer

Donna Ponessa and Eleanor Brimmer

Lewis Coleman and Anne Solbraekke
Jolie Wentworth has a special spark and drive that draws her to the difficult sport of eventing, and in 2012, the United States Equestrian Team Foundation recognized that talent. Awarding Wentworth the Jacqueline B. Mars Domestic Competition and Training Grant allowed the Martinez, CA native to travel east this spring and compete at some of the most challenging events in the nation.

The grant is given to an Eventing rider who has been identified and recommended by the USEF Eventing Selectors, with an impressive record and potential to represent the United States in future international competition. Wentworth began riding at the young age of seven, and one of her earliest trainers was Tracy Bowman of Kismet Farm in Martinez, CA. She entered her first competition at age nine and was hooked. Eventually Wentworth became a working student at Kismet Farm, and now she is Bowman’s partner in the business. Currently, Wentworth is a USEF High Performance Squad listed rider, and has set her sights on the world’s most demanding competitions.

“I am drawn to eventing because it’s quite difficult, and I think when someone finds something difficult that they enjoy, it keeps pushing them to attain the next level of success,” explained Wentworth. “You keep trying to improve each performance. I would like to try to get to Europe eventually, and making a U.S. Team is always something you want to do.”

Wentworth’s talent and determination were recognized by the USEF Foundation, making her the perfect fit for the Jacqueline B. Mars Domestic Competition and Training Grant, which helps offset the costs of competing and training at the highest levels. “It is a great honor to receive the grant,” stated Wentworth. “Grants like this remove the unnecessary stress that we as riders have, and we get to really focus on the riding and competing. It’s such a valuable part of the sport and I think that this is an amazing grant.”

This year, Wentworth used the grant to help campaign her mount Goodknight at the four-star level. Last year, this pair finished fourth in the CIC*** at The Event at Rebecca Farm (MT), second in the CIC*** at Woodside (CA) and second in the CCI*** at Galway Downs (CA). This spring they were fifth in an intermediate division at Galway Downs.

Using the grant, Wentworth and Goodknight flew from California to Ocala, FL, to compete during the Fork Horse Trails, and spent the next two weeks gearing up for the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event CCI****. “I think he learned a lot and I learned a lot,” she commented. “My horse is very green at the four-star level, but I think it was a huge education for him to get to do this, so we are very excited about building from this past experience.”

– Rebecca Walton
In support of the United States Equestrian Olympic Team, the United States Equestrian Team Foundation hosted a fiesta benefit on May 4, 2012 at the Del Mar National Horse Show. Over 200 guests attended the exciting event, which featured margaritas, fiesta food, music and a live auction at Barn W of the Del Mar Fairgrounds. By the end of the evening, over $30,000 had been raised for the Olympic effort.

Robin Parsky, USET Foundation Trustee and Co-Chair of the Development Committee, and her husband Gerry, chaired the event. She kicked off the festivities by welcoming guests and thanking the Committee, and then went on to recognize Rich Fellers for his recent victory at the 2012 FEI Rolex Show Jumping World Cup Finals with Mollie and Harry Chapman’s Flexible. She presented Fellers and the Chapmans with a custom designed poster displaying photos from that most memorable day in The Netherlands.

Later in the evening, Gerry Parsky acted as auctioneer during the live auction, where the bidding was led by Roxana Foxx, winner of the signed Rich Fellers and Flexible poster. Will Simpson, the 2008 Olympic Gold Medalist donated two clinics, which included Will cooking dinner for the clinic participants, which were purchased by Linda Starkman and Patti Bruten. Jami Heidegger was also in the thick of the bidding, taking home a case of wine donated by Linda Starkman and Cathy Colmar, and a beautiful Olympic pin adorned in diamonds and other precious gems, donated by Janet Foy, perfect for the 2012 London Olympics.

Mrs. Parsky commented, “As most of you know, the role of the USET Foundation is to help support this country’s High Performance programs. I am proud to say that this year, the USET Foundation will be providing $2.8 million in funding to the USEF for these programs, which includes the Olympic and Paralympic Games. This support is only possible through the generosity of all the wonderful people that make the USET Foundation an important part of their charitable giving each year. Thank you!”

In addition to the Parskys, the organizing committee included Pam and Bob Buie, Cathy and Dave Colmar, Signe Ostby and Scott Cook, Penny and Jim Coulter, George and Kelly Davis, Gail Gregson, Pat and Michael Hayward, Jami and Klaus Heidegger, Sarah and Jon Kelly, Shari and Herb Lurie, Gwendolyn and Jay Meyer, Linda Starkman and Pam Theodosakis.

The night’s event was a wonderful success, and guests enjoyed showing their support of our United States Equestrian Teams as they aim for the 2012 London Olympics beginning in July.

– Rebecca Walton
The fascinating background of the U.S. Equestrian Team Foundation’s Gladstone headquarters was revealed in rich detail during a lecture by historian Barry Thomson, the highlight of a June open house and tour of the facility. Old friends were welcomed back and newcomers from the Somerset Hills area and beyond had an opportunity to learn about the landmark facility.

Thomson, whose family has long lived in Peapack and Gladstone (his grandfather ran the livery stable in town), told a capacity crowd of more than 150 gathered in the rotunda...
about James Cox Brady’s vision for the 5,000-acre Hamilton Farm. The stable, constructed in 1916-17, was a focal point of the vast estate. He described the many rich details of the structure, which had 12 by 12-foot stalls on two levels, three stallion stalls, a storage area for carriages and separate rooms for show and work horse harness.

The ceilings of orange-glazed tile set Catalan-style in curved interlocking layers, the glass floor in the trophy room and the stained glass ceiling above, were among the features that made it “the most lavish structure of its kind in this country” and indeed, the world, at that time. After Brady died and farming operations were curtailed, the building served a number of other uses. During World War II, it was a hospital and then a rest home for members of the Merchant Marine, veterans of hazardous duty in the treacherous North Atlantic when the Nazis were torpedoing American ships. (That struck a chord with some visitors familiar with the popular TV series *Downton Abbey*, in which a British estate was used in the same fashion.)

During the 1950s, the stable was used by a construction company until it became the home of the USET in 1961. Beneficial Corp. bought 500 acres of Hamilton farm in 1978, and in 1988, it donated the building to the Team. It is now the center of operations for the USET Foundation, the successor of the USET, and some U.S. Equestrian Federation offices are housed there as well.

Adding to the atmosphere during the afternoon, horses were arriving for the USEF Dressage Festival of Champions while visitors were standing by in the stable, enjoying hors d’oeuvres and drinks. Curious guests, some of whom may never have been that close to a horse, peered through the bars of the stalls looking at the sleek occupants.

The tour was the formal kick-off for the Gladstone Fund, with a goal of raising $3.5 million for refurbishment and upkeep of the Foundation’s property so it can continue to provide a base for U.S. Teams in training and competition. It’s a popular cause. Even before the announcement, $1.1 million in gifts and pledges had come in, with the Murphy family making a leadership gift in memory of former USET President Vincent B. Murphy. The tack room will be named in recognition of Mr. Murphy’s many contributions to the Team and its success in international competition during
the time he served as president, from 1983 to 1989.

USET Foundation Executive Director Bonnie Jenkins noted that Hamilton Farm not only serves international competitors, but the local community as well. The variety of equestrian events and equestrian-related activities held there outside the international sphere include dressage shows, Pony Club rallies, a side-saddle camp and social gatherings.

The tour was rescheduled from October, when a freak snowstorm cut off the electricity in much of the area. Weather again appeared ready to disturb the proceedings as rain poured down during the lecture. But when it came time for dressage trainer Sara Schmitt to perform a musical freestyle outdoors, the skies cleared. It turned out she had picked the perfect music for her performance: "Singin’ in the Rain" and "Somewhere Over the Rainbow."

Afterward, visitors had time to explore the building and grounds. William Whitehill, grandson of the stable’s architect, William Weissenberger, Jr. (who changed his name to Whitehill because of the anti-German feeling during World War I) attended with his sister, Millie Bankert, and Weissenberger’s great-grandson, William Lachmann. Despite their strong connection to the building, the family had never visited it previously.

Thomson found the family through research on the internet, and visited with them last year.

“We were absolutely elated,” said Whitehill, noting they had been to all of his grandfather’s buildings in New York. “This is a piece of the puzzle we didn’t know about and to me, it’s the most fantastic of his works,” said Whitehill, a retired school superintendent.

Lachmann, a contractor, has a special appreciation for his great-grandfather’s efforts because of his own profession. Of the stable, he noted, “It’s unbelievable. It’s bullet-proof. Everything he did was built to last forever, or as long as it could.”

Other first-time visitors were impressed by the afternoon’s activities and the setting. Joe Pearlman of East Brunswick and his daughter, Ariana, 14, who is taking riding lessons, were enchanted by their experience at the USET Foundation and being able to watch the freestyle.

“I think it’s really valuable for people to see this,” said Pearlman, noting how much his daughter has benefited from her involvement with the animals.

“This is a sport that may be underappreciated. I found it to be a sport that should be more recognized.”

Denise LeBrun of Fort Lee was excited to have her photo taken against a backdrop of hundreds of ribbons won by team members.

“I wanted to ride for the equestrian team my whole life,” said LeBrun, who rode through her high school years.

She had never been to the Foundation’s headquarters and jumped at the invitation from a neighbor to attend. LeBrun obviously was thrilled to be at the Gladstone center.

“I have goosebumps. I want to cry right now,” she said.

“I think it’s so amazing this place was built in 1917 and it’s still here and it’s serving the purpose that he (Brady) intended.”

— Nancy Jaffer
HELEN Z. STEINKRAUS
Dressage Visionary

Helen Ziegler Steinkraus died peacefully at home on the evening of April 11th surrounded by her family, after a brief illness. Born in New York, the daughter of William Ziegler, Jr. and Helen Murphy Ziegler, the 81-year-old Mrs. Steinkraus grew up in Noroton, CT and New York City. She was educated at Nightingale-Bamford School and attended Columbia University and Hunter College before teaching briefly at Brearley. She then worked as a research assistant on the lung cancer studies of Dr. Ernst Wynder at the Sloan-Kettering Institute, and made several trips abroad collecting medical samples for him.

Known to many by her nickname Sis, she was an elegant person and a very accomplished and versatile sportswoman. A member of the New York Yacht Club, she raced in Long Island Sound with her brother, William Ziegler III on their jointly-owned boats, and crewed on races to Bermuda and Hawaii. She skied for many years both at home and abroad. She hunted wildfowl and upland birds from the East and South to Mexico, rode with many American foxhound packs as well as several Irish hunts, and made two hunting safaris in Africa. She also enjoyed snorkeling and tennis.

After marrying Olympic showjumper William Steinkraus in 1960 she became interested in equestrian dressage, and with training from Jean Saint-Fort Paillard, Gunnar Andersen, Karl Mikolka and others, commenced a very successful competitive career that took her all the way to the Grand Prix level. With Natu she was USDF horse of the year at 2nd, 3rd and 4th level in three consecutive years and won the Eastern National 4th level finals in 1975. A vice-president of the American Dressage Institute, she became a sought-after national and international senior dressage judge and a strong early advocate of the freestyle to music. As a dressage organizer she was instrumental in developing the Wellington, FL dressage competitions, which she conducted in their early years. In retrospect, she played a valuable role in the development of dressage in America.

Mrs. Steinkraus was a loving wife, mother and grandmother, and especially enjoyed visiting the horses with her grandchildren. She is survived by her husband of 51 years, William C. Steinkraus; three sons, Eric of Sandy Hook, CT; Philip and his wife Stefanie of Rhinebeck, NY; and Edward of Darien, his wife Beth and three grandchildren, Grace, Abigail and Griffin.

Donations in her memory can be made to the US Equestrian Team Foundation, PO Box 355, Gladstone, NJ 07934, and Darien EMS-Post 53, POB 2066, Darien, CT 06820. A private service was held.

– William C Steinkraus

DR. CRAIG FERRELL
USET Foundation Loses Friend and Team Physician

On May 28, 2012, the United States Equestrian Team’s physician Dr. Craig Ferrell passed away at the age of 62 due to injuries sustained while playing polo. Ferrell was an avid equestrian, and during his years as the Team physician he has helped treat top riders such as Margie Engle and McLain Ward.

“Dr. Ferrell has been a friend for years now, but in the past year he has been a saving grace for me,” noted Ward, who sustained a serious knee injury in January. “Through my injury he has been a huge shoulder to lean on for my wife and me. Hearing the news of his accident has shaken us to our core. It is hard to express what this man has done for me over the past four months.”

“Craig was truly one of those rare individuals whose incredible talent as a world-class physician was only exceeded by the kindness, sincerity and compassion that he brought to everything with which he was involved,” commented USEF Foundation President Jane F. Clark. “He was a friend, colleague and someone we were so blessed to know. Craig’s contributions to equestrian sport through his role as the USEF Team doctor, and work with the FEI Medical Council was extraordinary, but his friendship is what we will miss most. Our thoughts and prayers are with Lorraine and their sons Aaron and John.”

A funeral was held on Thursday, May 31st at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Nashville, TN. Donations can be made in Dr. Ferrell’s name to Brightstone, 140 Southeast Pkwy Ct., Franklin, TN 37205. — Rebecca Walton

Team Physician Craig Ferrell was a wonderful friend and avid equestrian
AMY TRYON

(1970-2012)

The equestrian world mourns the loss of a great rider, competitor and athlete. Amy Tryon, a much beloved member of the United States Eventing Team, passed away in her sleep on April 12, 2012 at the young age of 42.

Born in Redmond, WA in 1970, Tryon had a passion for riding from an early age. She competed for the first time when she was just five years old and evented at age eight. Though shy, Tyron was known for her resilience, determination and courage. She demonstrated the qualities that horse people admire. A gifted rider and trainer, she brought all her horses along from square one.

Tyron purchased her famous mount, Poggio II, a former trail pack-horse from a classified ad in the Seattle Times. Together their accomplishments were extraordinary. They represented the USA at two Olympic Games, Athens 2004 and the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games in Hong Kong, and two FEI World Equestrian Games, winning Team Gold in Jerez de la Frontera (ESP) in 2002 and Individual Bronze in Aachen (GER) in 2006.

Tryon worked as a firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician to support her riding. She was a Team Bronze medalist at the Athens 2004 Olympic Games while still an amateur. Tryon retired from firefighting to become a professional trainer in 2006.

Tryon is survived by her beloved husband, Greg Tryon, mother, Jemi Cain, family and many friends. – Carrie Wirth

LOUISE IRELAND HUMPHREY

(1918-2012)

Louise Ireland Humphrey passed away at her home at Woodfield Spring Plantation in Miccosukee, FL on March 18, 2012 at the age of 93. Born to Robert Livingstone Ireland and Margaret Allen Ireland on November 1, 1918 in Cleveland, Ohio, Mrs. Humphrey lived a life of philanthropy and service. She especially enjoyed opera, nature, animals and outdoor sports.

Passionate about horses and dogs from an early age, Mrs. Humphrey became involved with fox hunting and was named joint master of the Chagrin Valley Hunt in 1954. Mrs. Humphrey also participated in hunter/jumper shows. She developed a well-known pack of hunting beagles and raised Labrador Retrievers. Later Mrs. Humphrey and her son Watts, bred and raced Thoroughbreds.

Mrs. Humphrey was elected a Director of the USET on January 12, 1957, and on January 20, 1987 elected an Honorary Life Director, a title now known as Honorary Life Trustee since the formation of USET Foundation.

A lover of the arts, Mrs. Humphrey served as president of the North Ohio Opera Association from 1962 through 1984. Mrs. Humphrey also became the first woman to hold the title of President of the Metropolitan Opera, serving through 1991.

Mrs. Humphrey acted as Chairman of the development committee for the Tall Timbers Research Foundation from 1990 to 1998, Director of The Community Foundation of North Florida, a member of the Florida Federal Wildlife Federation Conservation and a trustee of the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra. She served as a trustee of The Archbold Medical Center, Pebble Hill Foundation, Thomasville Cultural Center, Thomasville Entertainment Foundation and Florida State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

In 2001, Mrs. Humphrey was inducted into the Florida Wildlife Federation Hall of Fame. She received a Doctor of Humane Letters from Florida State University for her contributions to education and the fine arts in 1992.

Mrs. Humphrey was preceded in death by her husband, Gilbert Humphrey, daughter Margo Bindhardt, sister, Kate Ireland and brother Tim Ireland. She is survived by sons, Watts of Sewickley Heights, Ohio; George of Bratenahl, Ohio; seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. – Carrie Wirth
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