

Don Taylor

2018 NDQHA Hall of Fame Inductee

Don Taylor was born on September 21, 1928 in Omaha, Nebraska to John and Mary Taylor. He spent his childhood in the Kindred, North Dakota area and received an honorary high school diploma after he joined the United States Navy in 1945. Don served in the Navy for the next two years as an engineer on an aircraft carrier and then returned to North Dakota to farm.

Don married and had two daughters, Terry and Bonnie. During a brief move to California, he was exposed to the early days of cutting horses and purchased his first cutting horse, Magnolia Bob. The family returned to North Dakota, and Don continued to farm, milk cows and run cattle. After several years of farming, Don's passion was about to become a lifelong love. He purchased a commission firm at the West Fargo Stock Yards in 1961, and later a trailer dealership.

Don's career as an American Quarter Horse Association and National Cutting Horse Association professional horseman began with Magnolia Bob in 1959. Magnolia Bob was one of the first horses in North Dakota to earn the AQHA Champion Award. He excelled in cutting and won many Grand Champion Gelding halter trophies.

Don was a charter member of NDQHA and was instrumental in establishing the association in 1960. He served on the first NDQHA Advisory Committee and was an AQHA Director from 1967-1971. He was also an AQHA judge and an NCHA judge and National Director.

On September 19, 1970, Don married Sylvia Marie Laske in Leonard, North Dakota, and they lived in Kindred until 1980 when they moved to Minco, Oklahoma. The decision to move to Oklahoma was prompted by Don and Sylvia's purchase of Clarks Doc Bar in 1975.

Clarks Doc Bar was a 1968 chestnut AQHA stallion. He earned an NCHA Certificate of Ability and is an Equi-Stat All-Time Leading Cutting Sire, siring the earners of almost \$2,000,000. He is also an Equi-Stat All-Time Leading Cutting Broodmare Sire. He earned 21 AQHA points and an AQHA Open Performance Register of Merit and produced earners of over 2,000 AQHA points, as well as AQHA Champions, Superior Cutting and Reining horses, and World and Reserve World Champions in Open, Amateur and Youth Cutting and Reining.

During their 47 year marriage, Don and Sylvia worked side-by-side at Taylor Ranch, building their lives around the cattle and cutting industry. While Sylvia ran the breeding operation, Don trained cutting horses and continued as a cattleman. He was a member of the National Cutting Horse Association, the American Quarter Horse Association and the National Cattleman's Association.

Don continued to feed cattle across the country until his death on November 9, 2017 near his hometown of Minco, Oklahoma. He was 89 years of age. According to Sylvia, "Don died with his boots on, headed for the feedlot." He has been described by many as a fine gentleman and friend, and a great horseman and cattleman.