



**George Andrew (Andy) Ebelhare, Jr.**

Born January 4, 1926, George Andrew (Andy) Ebelhare, Jr. was a native of Pennsylvania.

Horses were part of Andy's life from early on. He spent many hours in the saddle fox hunting near the family farm in Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

For many young men of his era, WWII was a game changer. Andy was just 18 when he found himself driving an ambulance for Allied forces in the European theater. After serving his country during the war, Andy returned to his home state where he attended the University of Pennsylvania.

A lifelong horseman who was known for his quick sense of humor, Andy found his match in horsewoman Jane Smith, and the two married.

The Ebelhares moved their family to south Florida in 1965 where they were active in the show horse world for well over three decades. Andy and Jane are credited with helping develop the equestrian community in Wellington, including the prestigious

Winter Equestrian Festival, which features national and international riders and horses competing in multiple disciplines, such as show jumping, dressage, and hunter events.

Andy managed the horse show complex at the South Florida Fairgrounds in West Palm Beach for many years. Jane was a trainer and managed the Palm Beach International Equestrian Center in Wellington.

The Florida Gold Coast Quarter Horse Circuit started in the mid 60's, and was the first AQHA circuit in the nation. Originally horse show circuits consisted of a series of individual shows, held at different locations each day, requiring the exhibitors to travel daily to each show.

In the late 1970's, when Andy became the general manager of the South Florida Fairgrounds, he initiated a new Gold Coast circuit format, holding all the individual shows in one location, WPB.

The Florida Gold Coast has grown to become one of the top-5 AQHA shows nationwide, featuring classes in all disciplines—from Western and English to Ranch and more.

The Gold Coast circuit eventually passed to Gene Mische of Stadium Jumping fame, then to his nephew Michael Morrissey, and is currently run by An Equine Production.

In addition to his show management skills, Andy was passionate about historic preservation. He put great effort into Yesteryear Village at the South Florida Fairgrounds. The living historical park features costumed interpreters and a collection of original and replica buildings including a farm, blacksmith shop, general store, church and houses.

Andy and Jane Ebelhare were among the class of 2012 inductees in the National Show Hunter Hall of Fame.

In their last chapter of life, Andy and Jane retired to Fort Collins, Colorado. Andy Eblehare died on June 9, 2015, in Florence, Colorado. They are survived by their two children Molly Eblehare Millard, and Drew Eblehare.

Molly and Drew were not able to attend in person, but Molly sent us a short video on behalf of both of them.