

Pennsylvania National
HORSE SHOW
HALL OF FAME

In Recognition of their extraordinary efforts, commitment and dedication to excellence in Horse Showing and the Pennsylvania National Horse Show.

2015

MARY GINGRICH BRAND CASWELL



Mary Gingrich Brand Caswell, better known as “Polly”, was a director of the Pennsylvania National Horse Show from 1981 until her death in January 2008. She was the first and for a number of years the only woman on the board as well as she and her husband Abel being the only couple on the board. Throughout her term, she served on the executive committee, as trophy chair and vice chairman of the board choosing to never move into the chairman’s position.

Polly loved being at the Pennsylvania National every day, watching the competition and serving in the trophy stand. She was well known for her boundless energy, humor and wise advice that always benefitted the Horse Show, and she was the reason the show created the Exhibitor Lounge.

Growing up, Polly loved showing and foxhunting. She graduated from Cornell University School of Nursing and throughout most of her life worked in various nursing capacities. Polly made lifelong friends who all enjoyed her infectious smile and love of telling little stories and admired her facing the challenges of life head-on, managing the trophies at the show even while undergoing chemotherapy.

The Hunt Night Leading Lady Rider Award was donated in her honor by a grateful Horse Show board. Each year the lady rider who acquires the most points in the traditional Hunt Night classes receives the beautiful “Polly” Gingrich Caswell Perpetual Trophy in her memory.

We are extremely proud to welcome Polly into the Pennsylvania National Horse Show Hall of Fame.