



THE WHEELER FAMILY
HALL OF FAME

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

2025

BRIAN FLYNN



In early March 2025, the hunter/jumper world was rocked by sad news- Brian Flynn had passed away. A man of many talents, Brian influenced every facet of the industry, from riding and training to judging, course designing, and bringing new ideas to a variety of governing committees. Described by those who knew him as bright with a great sense of humor, Brian managed several prestigious horse shows, including the Pennsylvania National Horse Show, for many years. No one knew him better than his wife, Nancy Flynn.

"His career in this industry has really spanned almost every aspect of it," She said. "He rode professionally. He ran a couple of very high end, successful stables and many of his students competed at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show and other year-end national horse shows. He even shared his expertise as a commentator for nationally televised equestrian events. He was a very sought after judge, course designer and horse show manager."

Longtime friend and owner Susie Schoellkopf reminisced on Brian's contributions to the industry. "He brought me on to the Hunter Committee, which he was head of, and he did an amazing job with that," Susie said. "That was really the start of the increment system, and that was a major overhaul for the hunter industry. There wouldn't have been anybody else that could do that, except for Brian."

Brian's love of horses began in Medfield, Massachusetts at the age of 5 years old. From there, his career bloomed to take him to the very top of the sport, including receiving the George Patterson Professionalism Award at the Pennsylvania National Horse Show in 2012, the New England Equitation Championships' Lifetime Achievement Award in 2017, followed by the U.S. Hunter Jumper Association's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2019. He was also inducted into the National Show Hunter Hall of Fame in 2013 and most recently the Eastern States Horse Show Hall of Fame this past September.

Jimmy Lee said that he first met Brian when he judged one of Brian's horse shows in Massachusetts. From there, the pair only grew closer over the years. "He was a natural horseman. He was unflappable. He did it all and he did it all magnificently," Jimmy said. "He touched all the bases and he hit a home run."



For Brian, his induction into the Pennsylvania National Horse Show Hall of Fame was especially meaningful, as Harrisburg played a significant role throughout his long career. "The Pennsylvania National Horse Show was one of the horse shows that was near and dear to his heart, so to be recognized in this way was just very meaningful to him and to the family," Nancy said.

