

*William T. "Marty" Irby, Jr.*

In 1955 Dr. L.E. Irby, Marty's Grandfather Veterinarian took a Tennessee Walking Horse named Sunset Sue E. in trade for a bill owed to him for doctoring a friend's horses. Had it not been for that event who knows if Marty would be in existence? Marty's Father, Ty Irby met his Mother Marla in Mobile, AL through the horses and the rest is history. Marty began riding Performance Tennessee Walking Horses at the age of 3 and showed for the first time at the 1984 Trainer's Show in Atlanta, GA aboard Carbon Princess.

Over the years Marty, along with his brother Miles delved into the Pleasure Horse arena and also showed many halter colts. Some of the notable horses shown by Marty during his juvenile years include Pride's Ringleader, Royal Copy, Sun's Glory Bound, An Echo of Ebony, and Delight's Cuttin' Up. The Irby Family has also been deeply involved in the breeding arena having been a part of producing nearly 9,000 Tennessee Walking Horses since 1955. In 2003, Marty won his first World Championship aboard the Irby bred & raised "FDR" in the Owner-Amateur 2 Year Old Mare & Gelding Division after 19 years of showing. Just a short time thereafter Marty was hired as the Director of Sales & Marketing for Waterfall Farms. He served for 4 years in the position at Waterfall where he guided the careers of such notable Sires of the Year, He's Puttin' On The Ritz, & Jose' Jose', in addition to World Grand Champion Generator's Santana, JFK, & Lined With Cash. During this time he also started the breeding careers of divisional World and World Grand Champions Gen's Black Gin, Jose's Intimidator, & The Titleist. He also had the opportunity to work with over 2,000 different individual breeders from around the World.

In 2006, Marty won his first World Grand Championship in the English Trail Pleasure division aboard The Lady of The Ritz and has also won seven additional World Titles in Western Trail Pleasure, Park-Performance, Park Pleasure, and Fine Harness divisions respectively. Irby received a full paid college scholarship, and graduated from The University of South Alabama with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication. He has served TWHBEA on The Sire Summary Steering Committee, Breeder's Committee, Bylaws Committee, Horse Show Committee, Marketing Committee, & Pleasure Committee.

In October 2005, Irby was elected to the TWHBEA International Board of Directors from the State of Tennessee for the first time. He worked hard to implement and secure the addition of the Trail Pleasure Division and classes to the National Futurity for the first time in May of 2006. In December of 2006, he ran from the floor and was elected Vice-President of Marketing on the Executive Committee, making him the youngest member ever elected to the EC in TWHBEA history at age 27. Due to work and travel commitments outside of the United States he did not run for re-election. In October 2009, Irby was elected to the TWHBEA International Board of Directors a second time, and was nominated as Vice-President of Marketing for 2010. He was subsequently elected to the position.

After finishing his term in 2010 as Marketing VP, and after much deliberation, Irby declined the nomination as Vice-President of Enforcement for 2011, and ran from the floor for President of TWHBEA. He was elected to the position, and became the youngest President in TWHBEA history at age 31. Irby was nominated for a second term as President for 2012 which he was elected to unopposed.

During Irby's two terms as President some of his most successful accomplishments include the hiring of former TWHNC CEO, Ron Thomas as TWHBEA Executive Director, formation of The Past Presidents' Committee, implementation of online registrations, online stallion reports, horse name reservations, and the owner (half transfer) identification program. During his first term, the association grew from 9,500 Members to 10,500 members in less than 6 months. This represented a 9% increase and made TWHBEA the only breed registry in the United States with an increase in membership in 2011. This growth was above all other breeds, and all organizational members of The American Horse Council. In addition, The Pushover, who was the oldest living World Grand Champion Tennessee Walking Horse in history, was laid to rest in the memorial gardens at TWHBEA in 2012. This represented the first time a Tennessee Walking Horse was laid to rest at TWHBEA.

Following his two terms as President of TWHBEA, Irby served as Immediate Past President on the Executive Committee from December 2012-July 2013. He, along with President Tracy Boyd, led the charge for the association's endorsement of The Prevent All Soring Tactics Act (PAST), an amendment to the Horse Protection Act of 1970.

Today Irby continues to serve TWHBEA as the International Director from Tennessee.