

Tributes to Lonnie... from Facebook

In no particular order...

Brendan Heintz

Very sorry and sad to hear of your passing, LFL. You were colorful, wise, and just an all-round good guy. I thank you for your help over the years with various mssions - as do the people that you helped me get recognized. Keeping your family in my heart. Thank you, "Shakeytail"!

Kathi Hummel

What will we do now Ranger Lon? You were the go to guy, the day brightener, the horse fixer, the trainer fixer, the client fixer, the true wit, the understander. The make you feel good about yourself guy. The world doesn't have too many of those... certainly not enough. You had a broad scope and a broad reach. You bathed everybody in a can do attitude with a Big dose of reality check thrown in all at the same time. We were all better for having known you.

(To Renee's wall)

The Hummel family sends our heartfelt condolences to you and your children . We are so deeply saddened. He was one of a kind and will always be remembered for his dedication, keen intellect, wit and sharp accuracy with a horse. A true horseman who loved people, always treated our family like we were important and always there to give a leg up or give good advice in any situation. He also made us laugh . What an original. There will never be another one like him. God Bless you all in this difficult time..

Jackie Mahvi

I didn't have nearly enough time with you. God took you away from us way too quickly. If I was as eloquent with words as you were, maybe then, I could begin to express how much I loved and adored and looked up to you. I am one heartbroken kid today. The last thing that you said to me was "I'm so proud of you! I love and miss you Jacks!" What I would give to hear that just once more. I just always wanted to make you proud. I'll always carry you in my heart and I know watch over me and help me from up there. Love you all the way to the moon, back down to the Earth a million times over. Hold Heaven down while I raise a little Hell and tear this world up a bit for ya!

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Lori Sargeant

Well Lonnie.....what can I say that hasn't already been said? You were one of a kind :). You always knew what to say to lead me to the right answer. It is the mark of a true teacher who can lead someone to discover the answers, in life and with horses, without telling them. Your wit was unsurpassed....second only to your knowledge and way with a horse.

While we mourn your loss we rejoice in all you were and will always be

Andy King Cresta

Thank you Lonnie for all that you did for my mare, Whitney, this year - she and I both loved you. I pray for peace and comfort for your family during this sorrowful transition. May you be smiling and joyful till we meet again in the air. Love, the entire Cresta Family!!



Winning Morgan Open Pleasure Driving Class, June 2012

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Stephanie Bennett

I'm so saddened to hear of Lonnie's passing. I remember him most as my favorite judge at the Muncie, Indiana Morgan show back in the day. I was always on 'that chestnut Morgan who never got looked' at even in the equitation classes. Even though in my estimation he was always the classiest. :) That year when Lonnie judged he placed me first in EVERY class we entered. Later standing in the line up in the last pleasure class he walked up and in a low but unassuming voice - "Best looking Morgan on the grounds". Made my heart skip a beat. What I always knew was solidified by one of the BEST! I'll never forget my Lonnie moment. RIP in peace, Lonnie....give my special chestnut a big pat.....♥

Tim Koehrman

I remember being at Louisville. Tired. Dead tired. Up til 2 am working horses. Up at 5 am, starting to feed horses. I mean we were just completely out of gas. In walks Lonnie Lavery, coffee in hand, cigarette in his mouth, whistling like a bird. Trying to show he was rested and fresh as a daisy even though I knew he was dead tired too.
Loved him. Good man and a great leader.
Rest easy.

Anne Juratovac

(with link to Frank Sinatra singing "Softly As I Leave You")
A tribute for our friend, Lonnie Lavery, I know he loved Frank. It was hard to choose from My Way, Autumn Leaves or Softly as I leave you, this is what most of us are feeling tonight so I picked this one.

...reminds me of an evening out on Jack Thrane's back porch, he played Sinatra and his music from his CD and his Ford King Rancher. Sinatra music always reminds me of Lonnie, that and Kansas City when Jack and he used to sing it at the Berea Horse Show. So many memories people have of him.

William Marple

Mr. Lavery was always so engaging and colorful in our many conversations in person and on the old Trot.org and here. My WC Enzo always reacted to Mr. L on the rail by shying to the center several feet. I almost went off one time. It kept

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me on my toes and always brought a smile to my face that Enzo knew a great one.

My prayers and thoughts are with Mrs. Lavery, Lindsay and the rest of the family. So very enjoyable to be around.

Jamie Davis Crabtree

It is with heartfelt condolences that I write this post. Lonnie was so bright, talented and funny. It was nice of him to let Lindsay make some catch rides for Mom. Even as a child she could ride the tail off just about anything. I pray he is in heaven now, telling stories and cracking up my mother. Be at peace, Lonnie. You will be long remembered.