



Robert L. Dupret

Robert L. Dupret (c. 1922-2009), California breeder of Appaloosa racing and performance horses, was a long-time racing official, serving state Racing Commissions and tracks not only in California but throughout the country. A successful breeder and owner, his Racing Hall of Fame induction is based on extensive service to and promotion of the Appaloosa breed and racing industry, especially in the mid-1960s when pari-mutuel racing was not yet legal in California or other parts of the U.S.

A 1988 *Appaloosa Journal* article described Dupret as a “one-man public relations force for Appaloosas” who “haunted Sacramento and appeared as a witness for the [pari-mutuel] bill in the Senate and Assembly.”

“He was a member of the California Fairs Association Board, active in California state politics, well-known to Governor Edmund Brown and State Senators, and helped draft the California Appaloosa pari-mutuel racing bill,” said Bob Blair, the ApHC’s

first and longest-serving Director of Racing (1962-1978), and 1988 RHOH inductee. “In my opinion, if it wasn’t for [Dupret’s] influence and driving dedication to Appaloosa racing, we would not have had Appaloosa racing in California for many years to come.” Blair added, “He went beyond the call of duty. It was his choice to serve because of his dedication to racing and the Appaloosa breed itself.”

Dupret’s affinity for racing began when he was 12 years old, in 1934, when he would hitchhike to the newly opened Bay Meadows Racetrack and work part-time exercising Thoroughbreds and doing other stable duties. Following a WWII stint in the Army Air Corps, he began his formal racing career with a Thoroughbred mare before discovering the Appaloosa in 1957 and establishing Seaview Appaloosas near Santa Rosa, California. Dupret passed away in 2009, having passed the torch to his children, whose Najama Stables became well-known for producing winners.