

GREENER PASTURES

R Jay Bakaro+//

Eleven years ago, Allan and Cheryl Ehrlick of Campbellville, Ontario, Canada, purchased R Jay Bakaro+//. That day was the start to an incredibly touching and successful journey for “R Jay” and his owners that was cut short in the fall of 2009.

“From the moment I saw him, his amazing athletic ability and talent made him very special,” Allan says. “Some of my favorite times with him were hacking through the deep snow in the winter and riding him at horse shows when the temperatures were over 100 degrees, and he would not turn a sweat.

“R Jay had it all together,” he continues. “He was the extension of Cheryl and I together, as he was always trying to please us. If he were human, he would have been a stand-up comedian.” Allan described R Jay as a prankster who made them laugh constantly. “R Jay was affectionate, yet arrogant, but he craved attention.”

R Jay’s achievements tallied 15 national championships, 15 reserve national championships and 26 national top 10s, and the list goes on with his regional, local and open circuit achievements.

“During the winter of 2003, when I was going through my cancer treatments, I rode him almost every day,” Allan says. “He was my baby-sitter and my inspiration. It was as if he knew. He never put a foot wrong during that period. When I got better, he made me pay!”

The Ehrlicks have received hundreds of emails, cards and calls from people since he died. The theme is consistent of respect, admiration and sadness for R Jay’s passing.

“It was indeed a privilege for us to have had him enhance our lives,” Allan reminisces. “Cheryl and I shall miss him always. We are blessed with wonderful memories.”

DA Salvatore+//

Sometimes it is faith that connects you with horses. In 2007, DA Salvatore came into my life. It was at a time when my dream was to show at Scottsdale, which is something I had never done before. I was fortunate enough to compete at this Arabian event with Martha Murdock.

It was a true dream of tri-colored ribbons, but something even more special happened. Joel Gangi stopped by and needed to sell a hunter. I was neither in the market, nor looking to buy a horse. However, DA Salvatore “Gus” came home to Stonehurst with us after Scottsdale.

Gus was full of life, comical, hated cold weather, always needed a bath and loved Gushers fruit snacks. He was a true



R Jay Bakaro+//



DA Salvatore+//

prince and the perfect Arabian at the same time. He had the look and presence when he showed.

We took him to his second show as a hunter. Previously, Gus had been a western junior horse that had a lot of success with Rob Bick and Caralyn Schroter. After showing and winning, it was destiny for him to be in the top of his class. He made you feel invincible. When he was right, each step was dead on and; it seemed I was on the best horse out there.

Everywhere Gus went, every judge, steward and fellow competitor asked about him and would refer to him with “it’s that beautiful grey” and a sigh. He was a stunning show horse with an amazing record. He competed in hunter pleasure AOTR, JTR, walk-trot, sport horse under saddle and dressage. He won six national and 10 regional titles in the three short years we Lily Walton, Quincy Hernandez, Katie Pelphrey and myself—had him. Quincy Herenandez had a special connection with Gus and showed him for three years. She took care and loved him like he was part of her family. He was such a happy horse because of her.

Quincy and Gus were Reserve at Youth Nationals last year in Walk-Trot Hunter Pleasure, and she knew that this was going to be the year for them. He was just an angel when the two of them showed. Unfortunately, we lost Gus to colic at this year’s Youth Nationals. We cannot thank you enough for the support and blessings from the Arabian bred about our tragic loss.

—Natacha Lesburquerque

Regulus Starr+

This magnificent animal should not pass without special notice. Since the day he was born, Regulus Starr+ was special; an Arabian horse with a white spot on his butt! Even at the young age of 4, when Deirdre (Sabo) Malburg, age 11, took her first lesson on him in July 1997, he was wise beyond his years. Intelligent enough to take care of a little girl first learning how to ride and spunky enough to “punk” her when he could.

Deirdre decided to learn dressage—the most precise, demanding and elegant of equestrian sports. Those of you who do not know the sport must understand that Reggie was built all wrong for it. Amongst the Warmbloods, he was too small, too weak and built “downhill”—all big “no-no’s.”