



Compassion Ranch

Animals getting second chances for life inspiring compassion, patriotism, courage...

Invitation to adopt from The Old Guard serving Arlington National Cemetery

For friends, you get a look behind the scenes at official correspondence of invitation and acceptance—Hank & Lincoln

From: Hovey, Monique R CIV USARMY 3 US IN REGT (USA)

Dr. Dyson,

It is with enthusiasm that I reach out to confirm your official approval to adopt MWEs Hank and Lincoln from Caisson Platoon. CC'd here are individuals that support their transition and some who served on our approval board. While both horses served loyally on our Caisson wagons, Hank's adoption is a special goodbye to the platoon. I will be collecting stats for you to take with you on his previous work here with us. The horses will be groomed and bathed on Thursday morning so you can take nice photos with them.

We have written previously about their needs for medical support going forward as well as farriery. If you have any additional questions, don't hesitate to reach out. We will send medication with Hank to help him with the transition. You will also receive a copy of their historical medical records and 8 bales of hay with a hay net for Hank to get you started. I know you are working with Auburn to increase your knowledge. If it helps, I also came across this [video](#) from Cargill's equine nutritionist and this extensive [list](#) of supporting materials from thehorse.com. Remember, neither Hank nor Lincoln are difficult cases and I trust that you and your team are capable of handling them appropriately. Hank needs diligent structure to his feeding and exercise routine. Lincoln will need gentle and slow but persistent handling to remind him that he is able to serve a different purpose now.



When able, will you 'reply all' to this message with a reminder of your timeline so that we can coordinate records collection and bathing?

I am also working with Regiment to coordinate a meeting where you can sit down and begin discussions for working together in future Veteran's Day parades. We will have something set up during your time on the ground Thursday.

Respectfully,

Ms. Monique Hovey, MSc
DAC, The Old Guard
Caisson Herd Manager

Our acceptance with more insight for why this is Important

From: doc@compassionranch.org

Dear Ms. Hovey / Monique,

Thanks for the inspiring news! And, thanks for the work you and your colleagues have invested to prepare Hank and Lincoln for their new home! We feel inspired to serve them and help them serve to inspire students, veterans, and more. Plus, they have us even more motivated to keep improving the

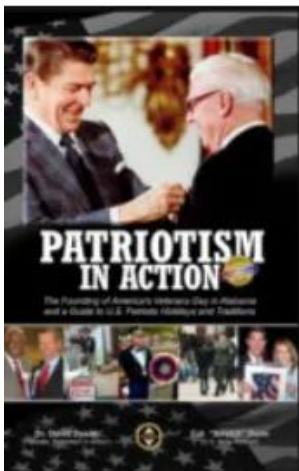
facilities and grounds. We built them new stalls and pens with feed troughs and hay racks; now we are building new wood fence to replace the wire in the paddock they will use first.

I just saw your message this morning due to being offline yesterday evening consulting with Dr. Dee Jones, who donated his time after his workday as a veterinarian with the State of Alabama, to see our stalls, pens, and paddock prepared for Hank and Lincoln plus discuss ways to make life good for the horses. He has arranged for a Purina nutritional rep to visit to advise us on how we can support the horses the best we can after they arrive. Thank you for sending hay to help with transition to our "Alabama hay," which, fortunately, has less sugar than most. We hope that can be part of the solution for Hank. If possible, please share transitional feeds for Lincoln to help him a few days.

On behalf of our Compassion Ranch and Patriotism in Action programs, we look forward to serving the horses and working on synergistic ways to also serve The Old Guard, the Alabama Department of Education, and National Veterans Day while advancing compassion, patriotism, and courage for this and future generations.

This is meaningful personally because I feel called to care for and develop both animals and people. The Old Guard helped plant seeds of this work almost 20 years ago. My first major learning of the Old Guard came when attending the funeral for LTG Dunn circa 2003, with cap horse Sgt. York.

Photos taken of your wonderful work with horses and ceremony got added to the book that became [Patriotism in Action](#), which I wrote with Gen. Dunn's son, Col. C.H. "Stretch" Dunn. This patriotic guide includes a section featuring the soldiers, horses, and cemetery through photos and brief commentary. Our book, [Professional Under Stress](#), shows a soldier at the Tomb of the Unknowns as a symbol of a "true professional" who serves and improves even when no one is watching. Col. Dunn worked with Col. Bob Barefield and me on the program we started after the September 11 attacks called Patriotism in Action until he died in 2017.



The Cap Walker (soldier) and Sergeant York (horse) prepare to follow the caisson from the Fort Myer Chapel to the grave site at Arlington Cemetery.



Col. Barefield leads on coordinating the riderless horse in the National Veterans Day Parade, a tradition since our first in 2006 when we featured LTG Hal Moore, our nominee for the National Veteran Award. If Hank is ready, he may be featured in the parade,

telling his story connected to Arlington. We will look for tack and saddle stand to fit him, so please advise how we can.

Col. and Mrs. Barefield will drive me to Tennessee to meet our transport tomorrow. With truck and trailer, drivers and I should arrive close to Arlington late tomorrow night before resting. We intend to arrive at 1000 hours Thursday at the stables eager to meet you, Hank, Lincoln, and those who care for them before finishing the journey to Central Alabama on Friday.

Advice always welcome. Please be our ongoing partner serving the horses and giving them purpose.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Dyson
Trustee and Director