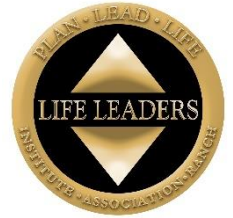




# Compassion Ranch

*Animals getting second chances for life  
inspiring character traits courage & compassion, patriotism & perseverance  
aimed at callings & choices of people to plan & lead in life serving others.*



Progress, plans, possibilities report to donors, advocates, volunteers, other friends – November 2023

## Veterans Day Issue

From Compassion Ranch & Patriotism in Action

The Oldest Veterans Day Parade in America



Hank, US Army (retired), served the National Veterans Day Parade hosted in Birmingham as the riderless (caparisoned) horse honoring warriors who will never ride again. Chief Warrant Officer Ray Ezell served as cap walker.



Family of Raymond Weeks carried the parade banner after their photo op with Hank and Ms. Senior Alabama.



Handlers before the parade.

Hank and Chief Ezell in unison.

After the parade hay and water.

## Tribute to the Founder of Veterans Day November 10 since 2005



Dr David Dyson served as emcee and speaker, then in announcements introduced Hank the Tank and Lincoln.



Col. Bob Barefield with Medal of Honor awardee SFC Melvin Morris. Weeks Family and others pledge....

## National Veterans Day Banquet



The many highlights included:

- ☆ Col Bob Barefield (USA Retired), center, received the Veteran of the Year Award from the American Legion of Alabama at the Veterans Day Banquet 2023, presented by MG David Burford (Ret.) with MG Roger Presley.
- ☆ Bob and Nancy have led Patriotism in Action for 20 years.
- ☆ Bob coordinated the first riderless horses in the Veterans Day Parade in 2006 when we honored LTG Hal Moore.
- ☆ Bob is past chairman of the Alabama National Cemetery Support Committee.
- ☆ Bob and Nancy have led the Tribute to the founder of Veterans Day honoring Raymond Weeks since 2005.

### **Support for this effort advancing patriotism, education, and horses**

The effort to present a caparisoned horse from Arlington National Cemetery in the Birmingham Parade and at educational events such as The Tribute to the Founder of Veterans Day and more at Compassion Ranch started a year ago....

- ☆ Bob and Nancy Barefield served as chair of Patriotism in Action, directed the Tribute to the Founder of Veterans Day, coordinated presentation of the riderless horse in the parade, and they donated to help me transport Hank and Lincoln from The Old Guard to Alabama.
- ☆ LC (anonymous) sponsored supplemental feeds for Hank's diet of high nutrition, low sugar.
- ☆ Beverly Crider followed Hank and produced a video on Instagram with photos and music.
- ☆ Kyle Crider followed Hank and captured video plus helped post photos to the web sites.
- ☆ David Dyson is ranch hand for Hank, Lincoln, and the rest of our 40 animals.
- ☆ Ray Ezell served as cap walker practicing with Hank and leading him in the parade.
- ☆ Grant Hardy of the Old Guard has advised us on Hank and Lincoln since they retired here.
- ☆ Mom of Grant Hardy, Karen Miller, Thiele Memories, made the saddle blanket for Hank.
- ☆ Monique Hovey, herd manager, The Old Guard, selected Compassion Ranch for Hank & Lincoln.
- ☆ CPT Nate Lundquist traveled from Arlington, VA to conduct a site visit at Compassion Ranch.
- ☆ Post 255 of the American Legion donated for us to buy more horse tack needed for the parade.
- ☆ Steve Vance donated the saddle and stand, plus acquired our caparisoned horse tack.

#### And more support

- ☆ Medal of Honor recipient SFC Melvin Morris participated in our Tribute to the "Driving Force" (President Reagan) of Veterans Day and served as Grand Marshall of the Parade.
- ☆ Steve Bryant drove his truck as emergency back up and helped display Hanks's sign on the trailer.
- ☆ Steve and Pam Bryant's grandson, William Moore, helped on Hank's parade team.
- ☆ Keith and Mary Ellen Schramm (Gold Star Parents whose son Brian is interred at Arlington National Cemetery) supported grandson, Caleb Hartwig, to help on Hank's parade team.
- ☆ Dr. Dee Jones, an assistant veterinarian for the State of Alabama, visited to assess Hank & Lincoln.
- ☆ Betsy Waller donated the metal sign of Hank serving Arlington displayed on the horse trailer.
- ☆ John Schumacher, retired professor, Auburn University School of Vet Medicine, advised.
- ☆ Liz Schumacher, horse trainer, helped with training Lincoln.
- ☆ More donors of feed and operating expenses from friends (5 states helped build stalls, pens, fence.



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**Instagram:** Compassion Ranch

**More Newsletters:**

[www.CompassionRanch.org/News](http://www.CompassionRanch.org/News)

**Web sites with greater information:**

[www.CompassionRanch.org](http://www.CompassionRanch.org)

[www.PatriotismInAction.us](http://www.PatriotismInAction.us)

[www.LifeLeadersInstitute.org](http://www.LifeLeadersInstitute.org)