

# Emcee Notes--Riderless Horse for National Veterans Day Parade Presented by Compassion Ranch and the Patriotism in Action Program



The Riderless Horse from Arlington National Cemetery is back! Hank was the first caparisoned or riderless horse from The Old Guard caisson platoon to walk in our parade! This year, another first! Hank is led by a soldier and horseman called a cap walker from The Old Guard at Arlington National Cemetery, Sgt. Grant Hardy, squad leader for the cap walkers, who traveled here to reunite with Hank and serve our parade.

The “out walkers” escorting Hank are Dr. David Dyson, trustee of Compassion Ranch, and Army veteran Ovie Powell.

Behind them serving on the team for Hank include a vet tech and students helping with “pooper scooper” clean up.

Interesting and fun info if you want additional content

- ☆ Hank served 10 years as a military working equine (MWE), including as “cap horse” for the funeral of Gen. Colin Powell.
- ☆ Hank was retired and adopted by Dr. David Dyson for Compassion Ranch in Central Alabama.
- ☆ Riderless horse is called a caparisoned or “cap” horse at Arlington. The handler is a “cap walker.”
- ☆ A Riderless Horse has been presented in our parade since 2006 when we honored Gen. Hal Moore as Veteran of the Year, a tradition started by Patriotism in Action led by Col. Bob Barefield.
- ☆ Hank weighs 1,300 pounds, is an 18 year-old Morgan-Percheron cross. Herd mates: Lincoln (also from Arlington) and Wounded Warrior.
- ☆ Hank was named for Alabama music legend Hank Williams by soldiers of The Old Guard. His Alabama nickname is “Tank.”

[www.CompassionRanch.org/riderless-horses/](http://www.CompassionRanch.org/riderless-horses/)

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POC for Hank, Ranch, Patriotism in Action:

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# Front and back of 4x6" inch cards describing the Riderless Horse

## Hank

Military Working Equine (MWE)  
"Cap Horse" Arlington National Cemetery  
"The Old Guard" 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment



At the full military honors funeral for General Colin Powell (USA Retired) in 2021, Hank served as the caparisoned (riderless) horse. Boots backward, *this warrior will not ride again.* After 10 years of service, Hank retired in 2023 to live in Central Alabama at Compassion Ranch.

[OldGuard.mdw.army.mil](http://OldGuard.mdw.army.mil)  
[CompassionRanch.org/riderless-horses](http://CompassionRanch.org/riderless-horses)

## Riderless Horse

Hank aka Tank



Hank (Alabama nickname Tank) is the first horse from The Old Guard to walk in America's oldest Veterans Day Parade hosted in Birmingham since 1947. And, he served the funeral of Col. Bob Barefield (USA Retired) at the Alabama National Cemetery.

Tank lives with Lincoln at Compassion Ranch in Central Alabama with trustee Dr. David Dyson.

[Doc@CompassionRanch.org](mailto:Doc@CompassionRanch.org)  
[PatriotismInAction.us](http://PatriotismInAction.us) / [CompassionRanch.org](http://CompassionRanch.org)

Saddle Sign with QR code

## Riderless Horse

Caparisoned Horse  
Retired from Arlington National Cemetery  
The Old Guard, US Army



## Hank

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