



## Suzanne Jones

November 1, 1924 - December 5, 2015

Suzanne Norton Jones, the consummate horse woman, rejoined her parents, brother and beloved daughter, Michelle, on December 5, 2015, following a short illness at the age of 91 years. She passed away peacefully in her sleep.

A celebration of her life will be held at the New Mexico Military Institute Chapel, Roswell, New Mexico on December 14, 2015, at 1:30 p.m. Visitation will be at the chapel one hour before services commence. Interment will follow at South Park Cemetery and a reception will then be held at Christ's Church, 2200 N. Sycamore Avenue, in Roswell.

Born November 1, 1924, to Lt. Col. Anderson H. Norton and Audrey Norton in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, with a taste for high quality horsemanship, a desire to excel and a yearning to share her knowledge of horses, Suzanne spent her early years living the life of a Cavalry officer's daughter. She grew up riding and spending her life with horses at various military posts. Following retirement from active duty, Col. Norton became the polo coach at NMMI and was inducted into the NMMI

Hall of Fame in 1992.

A graduate of Roswell High School, Suzanne attended Mary Washington College in Virginia and the University of Arizona, where she graduated with a degree in English and rode on the rodeo team. In addition to western riding and rodeo, Suzanne competed in prestigious hunter/jumper horse shows in Mexico, Canada, Europe and throughout the United States. At Madison Square Garden, she won first place in jumping in the Professional Horsemen Stake. She adorned the cover of the New Mexico Magazine in 1946 (with a horse, naturally) and was named to the United States Olympic Equestrian team. Highlights of her career included training a world-renown palomino named Nautical, which later became the basis of Walt Disney's movie "The Horse With the Flying Tail".

In 1952, she met her mate for life while competing in an equestrian version of musical chairs at a rodeo, which she won, of course. In 1953, Suzanne married this racehorse minded, sheep and cattle rancher from Tatum, New Mexico, Punch Jones. Next was a different world - - a different game - - introducing the horse to their four children, each of which successfully competed on a national basis.

Suzanne's love and knowledge of horses was not limited to the show ring.

The author of eight books and countless magazine articles, Suzanne also became an accomplished craftsman, fashioning gourds into jewelry, ornaments and belt buckles. She brought an untold number of children and other people into the horse world, utilizing her knowledge of the horse as a way to build mutual understanding and trust. In recognition of her unselfish contributions and her willingness to share her horse knowledge with young and old alike, the New Mexico State 4-H Horse School was renamed as the "Suzanne Norton Jones State 4-H Horse School". Her accomplishments and contributions to the horse industry also resulted in her induction to the American Quarter Horse Association Hall of Fame, the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame, the New Mexico 4-H Hall of Fame, the Ruidoso Downs Racehorse Hall of Fame and the Lea County Hall of Fame. Suzanne was also honored with the title of Master Instructor by the American Riding Instructor Association. At a spry age of 80 Suzanne received the standing ovation of a sellout crowd while competing at the European Championships in Aachen, Germany. She was similarly honored while competing at the AQHA Select Championship Show in Amarillo, Texas, at the age of 89. Suzanne started showing horses at the age of four. She last rode horseback and was showing competitively at the age of 90.

Suzanne is survived by the love of her life and husband of 62 years, Punch

Jones, who

continues to reside at the family ranch outside of Tatum. She is also survived by her daughter,

Debbie Jones, also of Tatum, and her sons, Clabe Jones of Joseph, Utah and Dirk Jones of Roswell.

Her beloved daughter, Michelle, predeceased her. She is also survived by Aja Palmer, Beverly Heird

Flores, Josh Heird, Levie Jones, Portia Jones, Rebekah Jones, Chaundra Jones, July Jones, and Tara

Jones, her grandchildren, none of whom escaped exposure to the horse world.

Suzanne's favorite saying was "Aim high - - shoot for the stars". Her aim was true. She

found her mark. Suzanne - your family, friends and the horse world tip their hat to you. Well done!

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to either the Ruidoso Downs Racetrack Chapel, c/o

Chaplain Darrell Winter, PO Box 449, Ruidoso Downs, New Mexico 88346 or American Quarter

Horse Hall of Fame, PO Box 200, Amarillo, Texas 79168.

"The family would like to express their deep gratitude for the unparalleled love, care and comfort provided by the staff of Heartfelt Manor in Roswell in Suzanne's final days."

Obituary lovingly written by her family.

Please take a moment to share your thoughts and memories of Suzanne with her family in the online register at [andersonbethany.com](http://andersonbethany.com).

Services are under the direction of Anderson-Bethany Funeral Home and Crematory.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Suzanne Jones*

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December 29, 2022 at 05:26 PM



“ *I was saddened upon hearing the loss of Suzanne. She was an example to all cowgirls wanting to be the best showman. I had the amazing experience of being able to go to their ranch and learn English jumping. I was riding Western for years and bought a young horse. With our love of riding she "raised the bar" for me. I had an amazing experience. I will never forget extending myself to jump over a fence only to know my pants ripped. I didnt think anything about it, wanting to continue to wear the pants. With her sweet spirit and kindness she let me know that the pants weren't fit to be worn. So not only did I learn how to jump like a pro, I also learned that even if your not in the arena to dress like a champion even if wearing jeans. Many people learned from Suzanne. I admired Dirk a lot and rode against him many times. We never spoke a lot but I looked on to them all with admiration. I even was at world with him. His stall was even next to mine. I remember that even though we were proud to be there we never took too much pride. We were happy just having the reins in our hands.*

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**Lisa wolfe** - October 01, 2022 at 01:37 PM

“ I first met Suzanne at the DQHA Horsemanship Camps in 2002 after her daughter Debbie 2001 had cut some knots about riding aids in my head.

Just these first meetings left permanent marks. All of you who knew Suzanne know what I am talking about.

At HMSC in Bremen which we visited as guests her son Clabe ask me if I could assist with the helpers riding lesson by "... translate and amplify my mom ...". Naturally I did.

After some time I realized all german riders did well but Clabe an Joby missed nearly every task. Cautiously I asked Clabe "Should I repeat commands?" he answered "As I said: please translate and amplify!".

Suzanne, this small GREAT woman who made up her point very quietly.

As a farewell gift Suzanne gave me one of her CHARLIE books. Personally signed in thanks for my help (whichever?) with the Camps in Borken und Bremen.

The titlepage of the book shows a green Elf sitting on the Cowboys shoulder.

Years later I realized the tiny difference between my personal copy and the standard book - going with Suzanne's dedication in the book there is a tiny "S" underneath the Elf on the title page.

As Suzanne stopped coming to Germany I wanted to visit her sometime. On account of our dog we did not fly anywhere for vacation.

Some day my wife Silke said: "Fly and visit Suzanne on your own who knows how much time there is to do it".

Since then years have passed but I just had a second opportunity - that time even together with Silke - to visit Suzanne and Punch in Tatum.

And again we left Suzanne with new experiences and knowledge. Really I can't say what of all the things Suzanne taught me - in person or through others.

But since I took my time some days ago calling up memories about Suzanne and I remembered this "S" underneath the green Elf I'm feeling "my Elf" on my shoulder more than ever ...

*Thank you for all your gifts Suzanne.  
Rest in Peace knowing we will live and spread your teachings.*

*Punch, Clabe, Debbie & Dirk we are sending our best wishes to  
you all.*

*Kai & Silke*



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**Kai Lahann** - December 14, 2015 at 10:08 PM

SH

“ *Punch and family,  
We are saddened by Suzanne's passing. She was a wonderful  
friend. Sonny & I miss the days we traveled together on PCA trips.  
My dad, Morgan Nelson fondly remembers her as the prettiest girl in  
Roswell.  
Every time we use a gourd ornament, light cover or belt buckle she  
made, fond memories flood our minds.  
She will be missed by many.  
Sonny & Ann Houghtaling*

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**Sonny & Ann Houghtaling** - December 12, 2015 at 07:15 PM

LS

“ *Suzanne holds a special place in my heart. We became good  
friends while she helped me to achieve my goals with "Annie", my  
paint mare. Without her help and support , we would never have  
been able to accomplish what we did. She and her family are very  
special and I feel honored to have been influenced by them all. You  
are in my prayers and thoughts at this time of loss. Sincerely, Leslie  
Studds*

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**Leslie Studds** - December 09, 2015 at 11:25 PM

RB

“ *Rubie Crosby Bell purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Suzanne Jones.*



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**Rubie Crosby Bell** - December 09, 2015 at 07:29 PM

SC

“ *condolences to the family of Susanne. she was a special lady sheri cargile*

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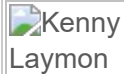
**sheri cargile** - December 09, 2015 at 07:24 PM

JB

“ *We have lost a great lady and friend.. Its December so I usually received a pecan pie to take home...Been stuck, dog bit,,fed horses, worked on tractors, ultra light planes and had wisdom from Suzanne and Punch....All in a days work as UPS guy for the Jones home.....Punch , Debbie , Clabe , Dirk my best to all of you .....Jerry Berry*

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**Jerry Berry** - December 09, 2015 at 07:23 PM

 Kenny Laymon

“ My favorite memory of Ms. Jones was of her and her son Caleb during a Reining Horse Clinic with the late John Slack and his training partner at the time, Todd Bergen in Santa Fe, NM.

*After the Saturday afternoon session a few of us were cooling our mounts, walking around in the arena. I was visiting with Caleb while walking my own mount cool. Ms. Jones, in her late 70s at the time (I'm guessing), was 200 feet away at the opposite end of the ring cooling out a very nice but green 3 year old bay gelding. I jokingly said to Caleb, "You ought to be ashamed of yourself letting your mom ride these three year old broncs." Now, I know my voice carries from the years of standing in a wind-swept ring teaching, but I wasn't using that voice at all. I no sooner had spoken those words, when Ms. Jones had already collected the bay into a lope and was headed our way. She came to a handy little stop just next to me before Caleb could even respond and said, "Kenny, these boys wouldn't know what to do with me if I wasn't able to ride at least three a day." I reckon she was right of course and agreed with her and had a good belly laugh. Since then, when I think of Ms. Jones that is always the very first thing I recall.*

*Kenny Laymon*

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**Kenny Laymon** - December 09, 2015 at 02:58 PM

 MF

*Incredible woman, friend. I wish I had spent my summers in high school training with her. I had the chance and chickened out because I was a scared 12 yr old. Biggest regret of mine. Her rance butts up against my brother's ranch. I am thankful that I got to know her in the last few years. Starting at a reining clinic in Santa Fe at the Santa Fe horse center. She took one of my horses home to train. She will be sorely missed. I have a couple of gourds that she painted with hunter jumper horses that are christmas ornaments.*

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**Marjorie Fiske** - December 12, 2015 at 01:16 PM