

2024 REDDING RODEO HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Luke Branquinho was born and raised in a ranching family on California's Central Coast. His PRCA career started with a bang in 2000, when he won the Steer Wrestling and Overall Rookie of the Year awards. Luke has 14 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo qualifications, five Steer Wrestling World Championships, three WNFR Average titles and two National Circuit Finals titles. Luke found great success in the historic Redding Rodeo Arena. He was crowned Redding Rodeo Steer Wrestling Champion 4-times – an amazing feat. He won the titles in 2003, 2010, 2012, and 2014, He has over \$2,500,000 in career earnings. Now retired from full-time rodeoing, he lives in Texas with his wife, Lindsay, and three sons, and is a frequent contributor to rodeo broadcasts, providing color commentary,

Christensen Brothers Rodeo Company. Brothers Bob and Hank Christensen grew up on their family ranch near Eugene, Oregon, competing in rodeos throughout the Northwest, and even staging their own rodeos on their ranch in the late 1920's and early 30's. By 1936, the brothers decided to turn their talents to stock contracting and formed the Christensen Brothers Rodeo Company. For more than forty years, the Christensen Brothers Rodeo Company served venues large and small throughout the Northwest, as well as the National Finals Rodeo (NFR) at all four of its home cities. Their stock contracting company was a family affair. Family members served as secretaries, pick-up men, timers, trick riders and also competed in several events at rodeos. Christensen Brothers was the stock contractor and producer in the 1950's, 60's, 70's and 80's for the Redding Rodeo. Their contracts indicated they were to furnish all stock, pick-up men, judges, chute help, and the rodeo secretary.

Ella Mae Gerlinger was a longtime friend of the Redding Rodeo and community of Northern California. The youngest of seven children, Ella graduated from Shasta High School in 1935 and went on to attend Western School of Business and Law in Sacramento, before marrying Frank Gerlinger in 1944. Her deep roots in the area and love of volunteerism led to involvement in many organizations and clubs in the area. She was a 4-H leader for 27 years, a member of the Shasta District Fair Board for 22 years, active in the Future Farmers of America, and Boy Scouts of America. She was the first ever woman president of any Boy Scout Council in the nation, elected in 1978. She was a lifetime member of the Redding Rodeo and is remembered for her sense of humor, laughter, and enthusiasm for her community.

Ron Lillard grew up in Fort Jones, California and moved to Redding to attend Shasta College. There he became involved in radio, music and theater which led to his broadcasting career starting at KRDG as disk jockey and then over 25 years with KRCR-TV and was in the press pool when President Kennedy dedicated Whiskeytown Dam. Ron's involvement with the Redding Rodeo began as a member of Shasta County Sheriff's Posse and the Asphalt Cowboys, He was the voice of the Redding Rodeo for 38 years beginning with Mel Lambert in the 1970's. Many years later, the roles reversed and Ron was joined by Wayne Brooks as Wayne was beginning his career in the PRCA. One highlight of his rodeo career was being invited to announce the Calgary Stampede, but the Redding Rodeo was always the highlight of his year. In 1972, Ron returned to Siskiyou County taking the job as CEO of the Siskiyou Golden Fair. As a member of the Western Fairs Association, he served as their president and was inducted into the WFA Hall of Fame in 1999. Ron, who was known for his incredible ability to remember people, stories, and statistics, passed away in 2020.

Kip Powers began his involvement with the Shasta County Sheriff's Posse in 1975 and was awarded the 1981 Man of the Year and served as the Posse Secretary in 1982. He served as the first President of the Redding Rodeo Association in 1983 during the transition from the Shasta County Sheriff's Posse. Kip led the organization through this turbulent time and helped in the formation of the Redding Rodeo Association. He has earned every accolade RRA has to give including 2008 Committee Man of the Year, 2011 Man of the Year, 2015 Committee of the Year and 2023 John Balma Legacy Award. He served as the Redding Rodeo Treasurer from 2009 – 2017 and has served as the Parliamentarian since 2018. He was the Ticket Chairman for a few years as well as working on the "Think Pink" committee. With the help of co-chair Sue Ellison and other put on the first Chicks N Chaps event in 2012. Kip is not resting on his many accomplishments you can find him at every workday and at the rodeo grounds many days doing any number of tasks.