



Ranch Rodeo

January 13, 2019 ★ Rava Indoor Arena
Salinas Valley Fairgrounds, King City



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MONTEREY COUNTY RANCH RODEO SET FOR JANUARY 13TH

Annual competition recognizes Allan Wallace, in memoriam, for his many contributions

King City, CA – The Monterey County Ranch Rodeo is set for Sunday, January 13th in the Rava Arena at the fairgrounds in King City. This annual event is co-produced by the Monterey County Cattlemen's Association and the Salinas Valley Fair as a fundraiser for the non-profits and fun way for area cowboys and cowgirls to compete in traditional ranching contests.

Up for grabs are buckles for first place in each category for adults as well as kids and the coveted "All Around" Saddle awarded to the competitor accumulating the best scores throughout the day. As is the tradition, each year a saddle is named in honor of a Monterey County Cattleman. This year's saddle will be named in the memory of Allan Wallace.

The only child of Walter "Al" Wallace and Martha "Mattie" Underwood, Allan Wallace, was born September 7, 1932 in Salinas. He attended schools in his hometown and graduated from Salinas High in 1951. While in high school he was active in FFA and his senior year beef project was awarded Grand Champion at the Monterey County Fair, selling for a record \$1.00 a pound. He was also a stand out on the Cowboy's track team in the 440 event. His running achievements provided him the opportunity to attend Fresno State and briefly compete at the college level.

In 1953 he was drafted into the Army and stationed at Fort Ord and Camp Roberts. While serving in the Army he married his first wife, Norma Jean Silacci. Together they had four children: Johann (deceased), Laurie, Martha and Gordon. In 1964 Allan and Normie purchased a ranch in Reliz Canyon outside of Greenfield. At that time Allan was already working for Albert Hansen by tending to cattle at Spreckles near the Salinas River. At the age of 30 he went to work for Mr. Hansen on the Topo Ranch outside of King City as Ranch Manager, a job he would hold for 28 years. As the Topo expanded, Albert and Allan built one of the best pasture cattle operations in the state. At its peak and when the rains came, the Topo could hold approximately 10,000 head of stockers, approximately 2,000 head of two season stockers and 1,000 head of cows.

Allan married his second wife, Susan Zanardi of Hollister and they had two children: Tom and Allyson. In 1990 he was honored to receive the Monterey County Cattlemen of the Year Award. Following his career at the Topo, he went on to work for Leighton Seed and Snow Seed companies.

As a volunteer of the California Rodeo he started contributing his time and skills to the Rodeo at a young age and served as a Director for 50 years. He was the Rodeo's Arena Director for 14 years and during this time he was instrumental in adding Gold Card Team Roping as an arena event. The PRCA awarded him a life-time PRCA Gold Card for his efforts. In 1974 he was selected by his Rodeo peers to receive the Gold Saddleman Award for his contributions to the California Rodeo. He always valued the many friendships of the people he met through the California Rodeo.

Allan passed away on November 3, 2017. In July of 2018 he was posthumously inducted into the California Rodeo's Hall of Fame. The Monterey County Cattlemen's Association and the Salinas Valley Fair are honored to recognize Allan at the 2019 Monterey County Ranch Rodeo. Friends and family are asked to share their favorite rodeo or ranch memories in the form of story or pictures for display at the 2019 event. Stories and photos can be mailed to SVF@SalinasValleyFair.com



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The Ranch Rodeo is an annual tradition that celebrates our western heritage and recognizes the skills necessary when working a cattle ranch. To participate in this year's ranch rodeo or sponsor a ranch rodeo event please contact the Salinas Valley Fair Office (831) 385-3243 or download forms at www.SalinasValleyFair.com or stay up to date on all of the latest news on the Salinas Valley Fair facebook page.

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