



Cowgirl Drill Team Expresses Appreciation For Freedom And Those Who Protect It

A deep appreciation for those who protect their freedom, and the red, white and blue representing that "God-given-right," coupled with a "dear love" for horses, are the heartfelt reasons for a new cowgirls' patriotic drill team.

"We are so proud to be Americans, and of the military men and women who continue to generously serve our country, as well as the many veterans who have fought to protect our treasured rights and privileges," emphasized Mel(ba) Rhudy of Americus.



"We had seen other groups that had done patriot tributes honoring our country, our military personnel and our veterans on horseback carrying American flags. Those presentations always drew widespread acclaim, and spectators were so appreciative, and typically became so sentimental," added Topeka horsewoman Sheryl Tasker, who rides her 20-year-old sorrel and white Paint gelding, Kota.

"The thing is we all enjoy riding horses, so it was just natural to form the Kansas Pride & Glory Riders," explained Rhudy.

Word spread among horse circles, and a dozen-and-a-half women have been meeting on horseback and practicing for their first public performance as a highlight of the 43rd annual Santa Fe Trail Rodeo, advertised and promoted on 580 WIBW and The BIG 94.5 Country.

"We are so excited to have the Kansas Pride & Glory Riders in their debut appearance at the rodeo in Burlingame, Friday and Saturday, May 17-18, 8 o'clock each evening. They also plan to ride in the Saturday afternoon parade at 1 o'clock," said Pat Rusher, secretary of the Burlingame Saddle Club, rodeo sponsor.

"We'll all wear red vests, white shirts and hats, as well as blue jeans, and have red, white and blue saddle pads with white stars," Tasker described. "All of our horses will have blue leg wraps, and every rider is going to be carrying a flag."

All five branches of the military are to be represented with their individual flags, in addition to a MIA/POW flag, the Kansas flag, and, of course, Ole Glory adds to the most colorful and, more importantly, inspirational, respectful spectacle.

An important part of every appearance of the Kansas Pride & Glory Riders will be a rider-less horse with a "McClellan" saddle, and boots backwards in the stirrups. "That's in memory of the many service men and women who have given their lives for our freedom," Tasker related.

Among team members practicing earlier this week for their debut performance at the rodeo in Burlingame were Amy Bermudez, Berryton; Bonnie Thorne, Wakarusa; and Lori Walker, Overbrook.

The new patriotic cowgirls' drill team Kansas Pride & Glory Riders can be seen at the Burlingame Rodeo, May 17-18, and contracted for upcoming performances by calling 620-443-5858, or 785-249-2891.

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Padre says:

***"In riding a
horse, we
borrow
freedom."***