

RANDY EADES

SEPTEMBER 1958 – JULY 21, 1996

On Sunday morning, July 21, 1996 ARHA was dealt a severe blow and I lost a friend whom I loved as a brother. On this dreary, rainy morning, Randy Eades passed away at the young age of 37. He left behind a wife, Joan, a son, Ian, whom he loved and set above all other things in life, his father and mother Ron and Susie, a brother Mike, a very large family and a number of friends that could not be listed in this letter due to lack of paper, all of whom he loved just as well.

Anyone that ever met Randy liked him. He had more energy and love than any person I have ever known. This showed in everything he did.

Randy has been an active member of ARHA since 1987. He has been a Club President of the Central Illinois Rabbit Hunters Club. He has been a Master of Hounds for the same club. He has been an active judge since 1987 and has worked very hard to reform the way Judges perform their duties in the field by requesting that the Judges call out all of the points awarded so the casts' participants know what is going on and to prevent the cheating that he worked so hard to eliminate in ARHA. For the last 4 years, Randy has held the position of Chairman of the Watchdog Committee. In this very difficult and demeaning position, Randy worked to see that every protest handled in a professional manner and that every ruling was handed down by the book. He saw that every protester was treated the same, whether he knew them or not. He had to rule on some very tough and controversial protest, some against some of his very closest friends. Not all of the decisions went in favor of these friends but that was how Randy was. **Fair to all, biased to none.**

Randy wrote a monthly article for the Rabbit Hunter magazine called ARHA L.P. Watchdog Interpretations. In this article, Randy worked very hard to help the Judges by explaining how they should handle certain circumstances that could arise while they were in the field judging a cast of hounds; once again, giving up his spare time to help the ARHA and the sport of beagling that he loved so much.

Randy started a kennel, along with his father, Ron, and his brother, Mike, called Sangamon Ridge Kennel. When this kennel was registered with ARHA, Randy had 2 hounds that made their mark in competition from the beginning. They were Grand Rabbit Champion Sangamon Ridge Gracey and Rabbit Champion Sangamon Ridge R.C. Since the beginning of this kennel, Randy has continued to breed and promote a "Hunting Hound" that anyone would be proud to call their own.

Randy had accumulated the necessary points to receive the highest award that ARHA has to bestow on an individual for their contributions to the organization, **making him the first son to join his father in the Beagler Hall of Fame.** This, in itself, tells the story on this fine individual.

In July of 1997, Everett Morgan, one of the founders of ARHA, and myself, at that time Chairman of the Board for Little Pack, decided to give an annual award to recognize an individual who was an outstanding Judge. We decided to also have it include Sportmanship and Honesty in the field and at the Club house, knowledge about Hunting Beagles and what it takes to make an outstanding Rabbit Dog along with a positive attitude and the willingness to help others. Since all of the above criteria described Randy Eades we decided to name the award,

THE RANDY EADES MEMORIAL AWARD. What better way to honor an individual for what he gave this fine organization.

Everett Morgan wrote this in his September 1996 Editorial: “ARHA lost a devoted, honest, and capable leader with the passing of Randy Eades. Randy always came down on the side of the beagle hound and what was right. He applied the rules as a good judge would do; fair and impartial to all. I lost a close friend. I know that I live and ARHA grows, I can look back and see where Randy helped build a sound reputation for ARHA and help lay a solid foundation. Thanks Randy and we will miss you.”

Randy is in Heaven now, looking down to see that we all continue to be honest and fair with each other. Every time I take a hound to the field, I will know that Randy is with me and enjoying the sound of the hounds as much as I am. Randy, thanks for giving so much and asking for so little. I will never forget you.

FRED HAUSMANN