



ALL COWBOY & ARENA CHAMPIONS

HALL OF FAME



Charles “Benton” Wardlaw

(Deceased August 2020)



Charles ‘Benton’ Wardlaw was born into a 4th generation ranching family in Del Rio, Tx down by the Rio Grande. Wardlaw Brothers at one time managed about 600 broodmares, 750 head of cattle, and 15,000 head of sheep and goats. They raised horses primarily for ranch work but soon

found that crossing thoroughbred mares made great ‘rodeo’ horses. Many of the top Turtle and PRCA calf and steer ropers were mounted on horses raised by the Wardlaw Brothers.

In 1961, Benton was the Texas High School Rodeo Association champion calf roper, steer wrestler, and all-around cowboy. Benton graduated from Texas Tech University with a degree in Animal Science. He was also on the Texas Tech rodeo team and qualified for nationals. Benton went on to produce one of the largest herds of Blonde D’ Aquitaine in the United States utilizing artificial insemination. He was a member and competitor of the PRCA, AQHA, Texas Sheep & Goat Raisers, as well as a mason, a husband, a dad, and granddad. He worked diligently on the ranch while instilling the horsemanship, sportsmanship, and rodeo way of life to his children Wendy Mason, Robin Montague, and Whitney Bray and his



grandchildren who are all awesome scholars and athletes.

Benton is humble, a man of few words, an entrepreneur, a tinkerer, a cowboy that wears many hats. He doesn't allow grass to grow under his feet and believes in living life to the fullest. No matter what arena you choose to perform in, Benton always encourages you to get better every day and believes strongly in putting in the good work at home.... His motto 'perfect practice makes perfect'! Benton's cowboy code 'leave it better than you found it' and when something needs done, he takes the bull by the horns and gives 110% to the task at hand.

Benton cooked countless briskets, pork butts, sheep, and goat meat feeding families and raising funds via 'cowboy tip jars' for the AJRA of about 6 saddles per year! He also enjoyed filming, critiquing, and was a phenomenal coach as he could see things before they happened. He spent hours assisting future cowboys/girls fine tune their roping skills on the roping dummy at many rodeos. Benton continues to support youth and rodeo athletes. He especially enjoys going to the San Antonio Stock Show where he catches up with ole' friends and roots the best of the best doing their best! He has grown fond of the new "The Cowboy Channel" where from time to time you will catch Benton's eyes light up and a glimpse of a smile as one of his favorites makes their winning run!