

# FIVE DECADES at the *Washington*

Edited by Nina Fedrizzi

Peeling back the years at the *Washington International Horse Show* (WIHS) is like taking a *glimpse into the history of America* itself. Nearly five decades after the show began in the *heart of the nation's capital*, much has changed. But the *patriotism, charm, and prestige* of the WIHS are much the same as they ever were.

→ **1958** The first WIHS takes place on October 10-15, at the National Guard Armory, with proceeds benefitting the D.C. Crippled Children's Fund.

The first horse show program costs \$1.

Betty Oare (then Reynolds) wins the WIHS equitation award and earns a feature in *Sports Illustrated* magazine.



→ **1963** Jacqueline Kennedy serves as the show's honorary chair. Both President and Mrs. John F. Kennedy—she herself an avid equestrian—attended the WIHS during the 1960s.



— **1964** With the nation's top jumping riders away competing at the Tokyo Olympic Games, the dressage and combined training divisions take center stage this year.

→ **1970** Dozens of carriages join the WIHS Carriage Marathon to pick up First Lady (and WIHS Chair) Pat Nixon at the White House for a tour around the oval.



Rodney Jenkins and Idle Dice win the President's Cup. They'd be victorious again in 1971 and would win the puissance competition three times.



— **1975** WIHS moves from the D.C. National Guard Armory to the US Air Arena, later known as the Capital Centre in Landover, Maryland.



In keeping with the show's proximity to Halloween, a rider wearing a plastic pumpkin head—and little else—rides into the ring to jump a few jumps while another class is in progress. His identity is never revealed, but he goes down in WIHS lore forever.

Created in partnership with US Equestrian. Photos courtesy of the WIHS.



→ **1983** Anthony D'Ambrosio and Sweet N' Low set a new North American indoor puissance record at 7' 1/2"—it still holds to present day.

— **1988** WIHS celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the Parade of Nations on opening night. Nancy Reagan is in attendance.



— **1989** Captain Kirk himself (William Shatner) attends to compete in the Saddlebred divisions.

→ **1994** WIHS launches its inaugural "Barn Night," when barn friends and horse lovers attend in groups to enter contests, win prizes, and enjoy a fun, horse-filled evening.



— **2000** MCI Center (now Capital One Arena) becomes the new home of the WIHS.

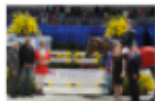


The WIHS hosts the U.S. League Final for World Cup Dressage.

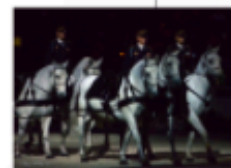
— **2004** Brienne Goutal adds the WIHS Equitation Classic to her list, making history when she wins all of the major equitation finals in the same year.



→ **2009** The show premieres its Gambler's Choice costume class, with riders competing over a grand prix-level course in their Halloween costumes.



— **2010** Sapphire and McLain Ward win the President's Cup Grand Prix for the second time.



— **2013** The Shetland Pony Steeplechase competition is added to the WIHS exhibition lineup—a crowd favorite ever since.



→ **2014** The WIHS is named a USEF Heritage Competition, the highest honor for any USEF horse show.

— **2015** WIHS joins the inaugural Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping North American League to host qualifying events for the yearly international championship.



— **2017** WIHS is selected as a tour stop for US Equestrian's "Discover the Joy of Horse Sports" campaign. Its aim: sharing the joy of horse sports across all breeds and disciplines with fans from around the country.