

2015 Elizabeth Busch Burke



Elizabeth Busch Burke, daughter of 1988 Show Jumping Hall of Fame inductee August A. Busch, Jr., and wife of 2001 inductee Bobby Burke, was a dedicated competitor, owner and businesswoman. She combined qualities found in both her father, President of the Anheuser-Busch brewing company, and her husband, a highly respected horseman. She was a rider, owner, and leading force in promoting the sport. A loving mother of three and grandmother of four, Elizabeth had a passion for horses and the sport of show jumping that was almost unparalleled.

Elizabeth worked tirelessly to help build show jumping in the United States, leveraging the Anheuser-Busch name to open doors and develop sponsorship and media opportunities. Among the biggest classes that benefited from her support were the American Invitational, AGA Championships, Grand Prix de Penn National, Grand Prix of Devon and the 2000, 2003 and 2005 FEI World Cup Finals in Las Vegas.

In addition to her sponsorship efforts, Elizabeth used her influence to gain unprecedented TV coverage for show jumping on ESPN and other networks that helped expand interest in the sport. Elizabeth also tapped into her creative side by working with Steve Stephens to design the iconic Budweiser bottles and Sea World jumps that drew widespread attention and which spectators still enjoy to this day.

Over the course of her life, Elizabeth was the proud owner of many successful horses, including several hunters shown to championships by her daughter Lysa and by Hall of Fame rider Rodney Jenkins.

But it was a Grand Prix show jumper, that was the most famous of the horses Elizabeth owned. In 2001, Elizabeth bought Authentic, a 1995 Dutch Warmblood gelding, for Beezie Madden to ride and it proved to be one of the most successful partnerships the sport has ever seen. Among their many victories together was an Olympic team Gold Medal in 2004 in Athens, an accomplishment they repeated in 2008 in Hong Kong after Elizabeth had sold Authentic.

Elizabeth was also a driving force in the creation of the Show Jumping Hall of Fame and she served on its Board of Directors from its inception until her death in 2011. She was instrumental in securing the Hall of Fame's first home at Busch Gardens in Tampa, Florida.

During her lifetime, Elizabeth's dedication and success in the hunter-jumper and show jumping worlds received widespread recognition. She was honored with induction into the Virginia Horse Show Hall of Fame and the National Show Hunter Hall of Fame. Elizabeth served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Upperville Horse Show, Devon Horse Show, Lake Placid Horse Shows, and Washington International Horse Show, and she was a founding member of the Boards of Directors of both Stadium Jumping and the AGA, in addition to the Show Jumping Hall of Fame.

