

EQUIERY LIFE

MARYLAND WILL MISS...

Richard Allen Mills

Submitted by Diana Delmar

Richard Allen Mills, 84, of Derwood, owner and operator of Millhaven Horse Farm, unexpectedly died February 3, 2021 at Brooke Grove Nursing and Rehab Center, in Sandy Spring, where he had been admitted for physical therapy after a fall.

Born and raised in Rockville, Mills was a lifelong horseman but held a variety of positions as a young man before starting his equestrian business. He was an artilleryman in the Maryland National Guard, managed a hardware store and, beginning in the mid-1960s, he was a reserve deputy sheriff for Montgomery County, a position he held for a decade.

His interest in horses was fostered by an uncle who had him riding from the time he was a child. Richard opened his first boarding barn in 1968. In 1985, he bought a tract of land in



Derwood and developed Millhaven Horse Farm, where he offered boarding, horse training and riding lessons. Many readers will remember his often-present daughters Brenda and Natali Mills as well as his former wife, the late Stephanie Edwards (Mills), an accomplished hunter/jumper trainer and rider.

The farm hosted hunter shows that attracted riders far and wide.

Many of the youngsters who learned to ride at Millhaven went on to become top-rated equestrians. Mills was also an avid foxhunter and rode with the Potomac Hunt Club and the Goshen Hounds.

In his Derwood neighborhood, Mills was known for his willingness to help, whether it meant plowing snow or installing a new well pump. One neighbor described him as “the patriarch of the street who will be remembered for his love and care of Millhaven and for his generous kindness.”

Millhaven remains a popular boarding facility in the area and will continue under the direction of Diana Delmar, Mills’ “significant other” of 21 years.

Mills will be dearly missed by the staff and boarders at Millhaven Horse Farm along with the many friends who have known him over the course of his life.

COMINGS & GOINGS

Welcome to new *Equiery* distributor **A Splash of Tack** at Flat Iron Farm in Great Mills.

Jay Griswold has been named the new Chair of the Fair Hill Foundation, with **William Phipps II** being named the new Board President. Founding President **Samuel Slater** will remain involved as Chairman Emeritus.

The **Fair Hill Races** will not run in 2021.