



Linda Lair Roberts

February 28, 1940 - August 22, 2020

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Linda, originally from Cynthiana, Kentucky spent most of her adult life here in Ocala. She was the daughter of Judge John P Lair and Margaret Shutz Lair. She graduated from Cynthiana High School and was a graduate of Stetson University with a degree in Education.

Linda taught for a short time at Howey Academy in Howey in the Hills, Florida. But, her ultimate classrooms were the arenas of the many barns and backyards of the multitudes of junior riders and amateurs she taught. Where she not only taught them to ride, but life lessons they took with them into their adulthoods.

Growing up in the Saddlebred and Thoroughbred worlds and coached by her mother, Linda had a lot of success with her own mounts. Upon arriving in Ocala, they both continued training Saddlebreds and Amateurs. Arabians soon joined the Saddlebreds and became the focus for the rest of her life. The Champions that she produced are too numerous to name, but they include some of today's top trainers, instructors and amateur riders. Their accomplishments run from Saddle Seat Equitation all the way to Classical and Western Dressage.

She helped plan, organize and run the 1st All Arabian Thanksgiving Show. That show will celebrate its 52nd year this fall.

Continuing her commitment to junior riders, she helped plan and run the Region 12 Youth Jamboree. This event gives all participants access to the

knowledge of top trainers from all over the country.

She was a founding member of the Ocala Arabian Horse Association and once served as its President. She was still active in the club to the present day.

She is survived by her loving husband, Jack Gibbons and a half-brother John Lair of Cynthiana, KY.

She will also be remembered by the many people who she met and influenced over her lifetime.

In lieu of flowers, please make a memorial donation in Linda's name to Hospice of Marion County.

Tribute Wall

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“ It is hard to boil down into words the impact Linda had on my life. She was one of the adults, besides my parents, who shaped my formative years. Never one to allow you to cut corners and certainly expected you to put forth your very best every time, I don't recall her saying it in those exact words, but you knew what she wanted and demanded of herself. She was definitely a task master when I was a junior rider, but our relationship morphed as I reached adulthood and ultimately declared my professional status in the horse world. We enjoyed talking "shop" and she became someone I enjoyed calling my friend. She always respected me as a fellow horseman and said when she came to visit my farm, "it is now your turn to teach me". I can't think of a greater honor coming from your childhood teacher! She was a witness to my growing up, and while it is fun to reminisce with folks about one's childhood, it is not the same as sharing those stories with the ones who experienced it with you. Linda, I already miss giving you a call to catch up. I think of you often while I am riding and I know you are there watching and riding along every step. Love you!

Lisa El-Ramey - August 31, 2020 at 11:44 AM