

**The Acceptance Speech for the Induction of Herb
Parsons into the Legends of the Outdoors National
Hall of Fame
August 22, 2009
at the Sheraton Music City Hotel - Nashville, Tenn.
given by Jerry M. Parsons**

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**Our family is very proud that our father, Herb Parsons
has been chosen to be included in the:**

“Legends of the Outdoors National Hall of Fame”.

**He joins many of his friends and admirers such as Pat
Peacock, Mac McCollum and Tom Knapp to name a few.**

Joining me tonight for this wonderful occasion is:

- 1. My brother Dr. Lynn Parsons—the cute kid in the
Showman Shooter Video**
- 2. My daughter, Alicia Parsons Knight,**
- 3. My soon-to-be famous country music artist son,
Jeremy Parsons**
- 4. Two Family friends and sportsmen from Jackson,
Tenn. --- Mike Butler and Tom Stallings.**

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My comments will be brief. Our father died 50 years ago last month. He was only 51 years old and had worked for Winchester for 30 of those years.

His memory and legacy has been kept alive largely by the efforts of my brother, Lynn in preserving the video which was made in the early 50's of Daddy's exhibition shooting (NOT TRICK SHOOTING BECAUSE HE DIDN'T USE ANY "TRICKS"!!) which was called "Showman Shooter". At the time this video was put on VHS for distribution, it was realized that this was the ONLY such video which existed. The release of this video prompted the finding and development of more such exhibition shooting videos. Many of the modern-day shooters such as Tom Knapp and John Satterwhite were inspired to become exhibition shooters after seeing Daddy put on an exhibition or by seeing the Showman Shooter video.

All of these videos (furnished by our family and mainly by Lynn) were used to produce the Exhibition Shooters program which was televised on the History Channel numerous times during the last few years. All of the videos which went into the making of this History Channel program are available for purchase from: <http://showmanshooter.com/html/order.html>

On this program, he was acknowledged as being the GREATEST EXHIBITION SHOOTER OF ALL TIME.

The amazing thing about all of this "publicity" about the "Greatness" of our father as an exhibition shooter has also shined a light on the fact that Herb

Parsons was just as exemplary MAN as he was a great Showman and shooter.

In 2008, Lynn compiled all of daddy's pictures and correspondence into a book entitled "Showman Shooter—The Life and Times of Herb Parsons". The video and book can be purchased from the website named appropriately, www.ShowmanShooter.com -- as well as more information about Daddy.

All of this has generated the outpouring of wonderful stories about Daddy's personality and love for people from all parts of the U.S. and abroad.

The following is an example which I received two days ago on e-mail:

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August 20, 2009

Dear Dr.Lynn Parsons & Dr. Jerry Parsons,

During my recovery from cancer I did a lot of reading...but most fortunately for me I discovered and bought your book on your dad, Herb Parsons. In addition, I have watched the features on him on the American Rifleman TV program and read the articles in the American Rifleman magazine. What an honor for your family...and how fortunate for us, his fans!

After almost 50 years the positive and fond memories of your dad came flowing back. Like many young boys of my time he was a positive role model for me. He was right there with Jackie Robinson, Roy Rogers,

and the Lone Ranger. Almost bigger than life. His untimely death sadly affected many...including me.

I'm not sure when I first became aware of your dad...it might have been after an article my dad read to me or it might have been after watching, "The Wild World of Sports". But from that first time I was a fan...and continue so to this day.

I have listened to Jerry on the radio in San Antonio for decades, probably from the first he started on the radio in S.A., but it wasn't until the early 80's that I made a connection between him and Herb Parsons...certainly Jerry is a 'showman' and character on his own merits and has positively affected his radio fans and audiences for several decades.

I hope to order the video/dvd about your dad soon. And if I can catch Jerry in SA I would like for him and for Lynn to sign your book that I bought about your dad.

Thanks for sharing your dad with all of us.

Sincerely,

"Johnson City Joe"...aka Joe Summy, Ed.D.

PS: I never mastered his feat of throwing eggs between his legs and shooting them...well I never hit one!

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I think you will all agree, it takes a very special person to be remembered so fondly by so many a half century after his death. He was more than a good shot—he was a good man.

It is very appropriate that Herb Parsons be remembered in the Legends of the Outdoors National Hall of Fame because no one has ever loved the outdoors and hunting more than my father.

In every one of his shoots, he promoted hunting and, more importantly, hunting with your family. His original saying: “Hunt with your son or daughter today to avoid the heart-ache of hunting for them tomorrow”. This saying has been misquoted numerous times – the worst being: “Hunt with your son or daughter today to avoid” having to take a dog!! Another of Daddy’s quotes which he always used in his Exhibitions was: “You show me a good hunter and I will show you a good American.”

Daddy hunted every chance he got. He took his vacation during quail season in Tennessee. Lynn and I hunted with Daddy every day of quail season after school and on the weekends. We

rode horses and ran 5 dogs at a time. Lynn and I seemed to be hunting dogs more than we were finding quail!! Daddy had a horse he could shoot off of; Lynn and I had horses we could shoot off of --- ONCE!!! So we would flush the quail, shoot what we could, then find the kills – while daddy sat on the horse and gave instructions.

In conclusion, our father literally lost his life in an effort to keep hunting. He died from a hernia operation complication. He was having the operation so he could better endure the physical stresses of hunting.

His final words to my brother Lynn and I after his surgery were: “Boys, I want you to know I had this operation so we can hunt together again.” We went to lunch and he had died when we returned. He had been advised not to have this operation because of a possible heart condition.

So it is very fitting that he becomes a member of the Legends of the Outdoors National Hall of Fame.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING HIM A MEMBER!!!