Bet Your Dream's success only increased in the following years. The gelding won a National title in steer daubing, National and World titles in judged tie-down roping, a Superior Event award in steer daubing, and two additional year-end top ten placings in 2011. By 2012, Bet Your Dream was only five bronze medallions away from becoming one of the youngest horses ever inducted into the ApHC Hall of Fame—an accomplishment he achieved and then exceeded, earning six year-end high point awards in heading & heeling, judged heading, judged heeling, and judged and timed tie-down roping. So is Bet Your Dream unusual? Yes, but perhaps a different superlative is more appropriate: extraordinary.

Meter Maid
ApHC Hall of Fame

Don't let the name Meter Maid fool you. This mare was one of the pioneer Appaloosa rodeo horses, starring in the 1984 National Finals Rodeo (NFR) in Oklahoma City and winning countless rodeos with NFR and Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association champion, Paul Tierney.

In an era when rodeos were populated with solid horses, Tierney went against the grain by using an Appaloosa to compete—a bet that paid off handsomely with winnings in 1984 totaling more than $80,000. In December of that year, the pair became the first Appaloosa Horse Club APEX Award winners by finishing in the top ten of the average in the NFR calf roping. The well-oiled teamwork between Paul and Meter secured them a $5,000 check from the ApHC.

Tierney bought Meter Maid, a fifth-generation Appaloosa on her sire's side, in 1983 when his previous horse was not winning events. "The only thing that I didn't like about her was that she was a mare," Tierney said in an article from November 1984. "That entered my mind more than her being an Appaloosa."

Looking for luck with a new horse, he went to Keith and Penny Howell's ranch, videotaped himself roping on her, then bought her after analyzing the tape. Meter Maid developed a bowed tendon and had to sit out the rest of that year. He started riding her again in April 1984, and started racing her in May at jackpots, winning every single one and surprising fellow cowboys.

Foaled in 1977 by Front Street and out of Lively Lassie (QH), Meter Maid was bred by the Howells. They had a hard time parting with her as she had been ridden and become loved by all members of the family, including the children. As their horse, Meter was a halter winner, many grand champion mare and a qualifier for the World Show in roping.

Meter Maid had numerous successes in the Camas Prairie Stump race, timed heading & heeling, judged tie-down roping, senior reining and timed tie-down roping—mostly prior to the national point system. A popular ambassador for the breed. Meter Maid broke more than timing barriers—she opened a great door and forged a clear path for spotted horses on the professional rodeo circuit.

Hands Up
ApHC Hall of Fame

Foundation stallion Hands Up established strong bloodlines that carry on to this day, and now he fittingly joins two of his progeny in the Hall of Fame. The 1947 bay blanketeted colt, by Vianeta London and out of Lucy Palousy, was bred by Ida May McKinley of Texhoma, Texas. After much success on the track and in the show ring, Hands Up went on to become one of the all-time leading Appaloosa sires.

As a two-year-old, Hands Up was purchased by rodeo clown Buddy Heaton, who raced him successfully. Roy G. Wood then bought him for $1,500, beginning the stallion's rise to fame as an Appaloosa sire and show horse.

Hands Up proved himself a versatile racehorse at the 1/4-mile, 1/8-mile and 1/2-mile races—earning money in all three distances at the 1952 ApHC Nationals. From the track to the show ring, he won numerous awards at the 1953 and 1954 American Appaloosa Association shows. Though his show career was cut short after being blinded in a freak barnyard accident, he went on to sire more than 300 foals including a National champion, a World champion, 14 race starters and was leading sire of race money-earners through 1978.

His brightly colored, incredibly popular 1952 son High Hand, bred and raised by Heaton, was well-known for siring quality all-around horses. Of his almost 400 foals, 17 were national point-earners and two were bronze medallion winners. High Hand was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1988.

His granddaughter, Ipaha Maid, was the first ApHC bronze plaque-winning broodmare. She was Champion 2-year-old Sprint Filly in 1963, and went on to produce three bronze race medallion-earners: Zepana Bull, Ipaha Girl and Dervish Maid. She was inducted into the Race Hall of Fame in 1990.

In 1960, Hands Up found his final owner in Nolan Hutcherson, who took him to Indian Creek Ranch in Houston, Missouri. After 13 productive years, Hands Up passed away at the age of 26 in 1973 and was buried on the property.

The induction of Hands Up into the ApHC Hall of Fame is a fitting tribute to one of the mighty fathers of the breed.