

JAMES S. RASBERRY

IS MSEA PRESIDENT

“Rooster” Rasberry always got up too early. That’s what his mother said, and that’s why she nicknamed him when he was about two or three years old.

Maybe that’s why James S. Rasberry is an accomplished builder... and builder of many things. James is the President of the Mississippi State Equine Association and for lots of reasons.

He was on his father’s framing crew when he was 15 years old, and was trimming homes in his native Attala County when he was 20. Three years later, James was still getting up early, feeding the horses and starting his own construction company. By 1985 “Rooster” Rasberry was the youngest President ever elected from the 2,000-member Home Builders Association of Mississippi.

During that time two of his three daughters started riding competitively. It was a weekend ritual to load horses “early” and travel anywhere in Mississippi for a horse show, and get back home at 2 or 3 a.m. While the girls were barrel racing and riding western pleasure, Rasberry introduced himself to a sport that was new to the State of Mississippi in the early 1990’s. Team penning was a new craze that had just reached Mississippi, and he said, “it spread like wildfire.”

Rasberry and a partner placed “third” at a national show in Cheyenne, WY. He was hooked, and he still team pens today. He is an active member of several team-penning associations, including the DRTPA and the USTPA. He also enjoys traveling around the United States, camping and trail riding with his children and grandchildren.

With the equine industry having such close ties to his home life, Rasberry always felt inclined to give back to the horse riding community. In 2006 James and other members of equine support groups founded the Mississippi State Equine Association. They have used the money that has been raised to sponsor scholarships for veterinary students in its endowed program at MSU, supported the Mississippi therapeutic riding center, contributed to some 25 riding centers and clubs located throughout the state, assisted the rebuilding of barns and

property that was burned at the Mississippi Ag Center in Jackson, supported programs designed to rescue horses from slaughter, contribute monthly to the Mississippi Burn Center, sponsored the Mississippi Safe Horse Auction, and is the lead sponsor of the State of Mississippi Horse Show Association's annual September gala. That's a pretty large agenda, people, and then the Agriculture and Life Sciences College of Mississippi State asked a multitude of businesses and associations to assist with construction and property funding. The buildings are now under construction and located at the corner of Black Jack Road and Stone Boulevard. James and the MSEA was the "first" to say here is our money and our commitment to accomplish what MSU was requesting.

Aside from the previously mentioned group affiliations, Rasberry is also on the Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors at the county and state level. He represents the equine community on the State Board of Directors. He is also a member the State Board of Animal Health, and continues to build commercial construction and residential properties in Kosciusko and the surrounding areas.

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