Thanks to Our Military Veterans

“One Man with Courage Makes a Majority.”

Andrew Jackson

This edition of the newsletter includes recognition of America’s military veterans. All men and women who have given their time and talent in military service to the nation are special people. If they have faced danger on the battlefield, their courage is unmatched. If they have served behind the lines or domestically in any capacity, their work is critical to protecting and equipping troops and providing assurance that United States citizens can sleep without worry each night in North America. Raise your flag in honor of all veterans. Keep those who are presently serving in the military in your prayers.

Shooting Started Yesterday

There was a shootin’ in Freedom Hall yesterday. As a matter-of-fact, there was a lot of shooting yesterday, and it will continue today. Cowboy mounted shooting takes place in Freedom Hall at Noon today. It will conclude tomorrow after the Draft Horse Show at 8:00 a.m. Cowboy Mounted Shooting has rapidly gained in popularity across the United States over the past five years, especially in the Western and Southwestern United States. The North American International Livestock Exposition was among the first large venues to feature mounted shooting in middle America last year. You can expect to see talented riders, who are equally as talented at handling a six-gun. The guns are real. .45’s. The bullets are blanks. The balloons are real. The action is fast. You’ll like what you see.

Farm-City Folks Having Lunch

The North American Farm-City Luncheon takes place this morning in the South Wing Conference Center. Folks from rural areas and urban areas look forward to the luncheon each year as they celebrate business ties that make business and neighborly living successful throughout the nation. The Louisville Agribusiness Industry Network is responsible for the event, and several hundred people will attend the luncheon. Linda Brock, a key coordinator of the Farm-City Luncheon, says a highlight again this year will be the Steer Roping Contest, where a team of city leaders compete with a team of rural leaders to see who can best rope a Golden Steer. Roger Mooney, the nationally-known Rodeo Announcer will call the Wing Tip Rodeo action today. You’ll also see Roger tonight as he spearheads activity at the North American Championship Rodeo. The winning team in the Steer Roping Contest takes home a traveling Horse Collar Trophy.
GIANTS ARE ON THE GROUNDS

Gentle giants have arrived. Draft Horses will compete in Freedom this morning at 8:00 a.m., and will return tomorrow at the same time. You can expect singles classes for all ages and a variety of breeds. An ever-popular attraction are hitch classes, whose horses and wagons are clad with silver, chrome, bangles and bobbles. Wagons that are pulled in hitch classes are usually hand-crafted and one-of-a-kind. The cost for draft horse tack, wagons they pull, and costumes for owners can often reach or exceed $50,000. If you like Draft Horses, these shows are “must attend” events. If you have never seen a Draft Horse Show, you should start this year. You’ll be glad you did.

Equine Division Rules

Quarter Horse Shows are done at this year’s North American International. However, they are certainly not forgotten! Entries at the 2014 Quarter Horse Show topped all other divisions this year. While the entire North American International has experienced an overall increase in entries, Quarter Horses counted in at 9,015 entries. That is an increase over last year of 1,491 entries. Among factors that influenced the increase were addition of three new competition categories, including Rookie Professional, Rookie I, Rookie II, and the 2nd year of activity for Two-Man Ranch Sorting. Hats off in salute to the entire equine team at the North American International.

Sheep’s Clothing

At Noon today sheep will make their debut in the South Wing when the North American International Lead Classes take to the ring. The event features young people who have made their clothing from wool, along with a sheep from their flock. They are judged on the quality of the animal entry, and also on the quality of the clothing they have made. This event ranks as another very popular event for youth in which they “learn by doing.”

Sheep, Sheep Everywhere

Two other sheep shows will keep late hours tonight, with each beginning at 5:00 p.m. in the South Wing. The shows are Market Lamb Showmanship and Junior Breeding Sheep Showmanship. Like most shows during the next three days in sheep and beef, young people 21-years-of-age and under will be featured. Youth are an important part of the exposition and recognized as leaders for tomorrow’s livestock industry. Junior shows will dominate in the South Wing, Freedom Hall and Broadbent Arena for three days.