



# CLASS OF 2022 INDUCTEE



## TY MURRAY

"King of the Cowboys" .... Eight seconds of glory ... "I wanted to win every time."

When Ty was in the fifth grade, his teacher asked the students to write down the answer to this question, "If you could do anything in your life, what would it be? Ty wrote, "I want to break Larry Mahan's record."

Ty was born in Glendale, Arizona in 1969 to rodeo parents, Harold "Butch" and Joy Murray. While still in diapers, baby Ty was climbing atop his mother's sewing machine case, riding it like a bucking bull. Butch stated "Ty was driven at an early age ... he worked daily with the mindset that he was going to be a world champion."

Before long, he was winning peewee events, and his special talent caught the eye of Larry Mahan, at the time the greatest living rodeo legend. The six-time champion invited young Ty to spend a summer on his ranch in Duffy, Colorado learning rodeo and life lessons, which prepared Murray for a career that would surpass even Mahan's.

Murray won seven all-around titles by competing in bull riding, saddle bronc riding, and bareback riding during a record-setting career.

His connections to New Mexico run deep, his father was the starter at Ruidoso Downs Horse Racetrack in 1969. The family would spend at least ten months in New Mexico and spend the winter in Arizona. In 1974, the family moved to Pena Blanca, New Mexico so his father could be the starter at the new horse racetrack in Santa Fe. Ty would go to school in Arizona and spend the rest of the time in New Mexico.

In 1987, he won the National High School Rodeo Association all-around championship. In 1989, Ty was the all-around national champion leading Odessa College men's team to the College National Finals Rodeo Championship.

With his parents living in Sandia Park, New Mexico. Ty decided to host The Ty Murray Invitational PBR bull riding in Albuquerque in 1996. The highly anticipated annual event moved to the Pit in 2009, regularly playing to sell-out crowds.

Ty was the co-founder of the Professional Bull Riders (PBR). He was inducted into the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame in 2000 and the PBR Ring of Honor in 2002. He has worked as a commentator for CBS on PBR broadcasts since 2007. In 2020, PBR created the Ty Murray Top Hand Award given annually to a rodeo athlete of significant distinction and impact.

Ty continues to be an exceptional ambassador of the sport and the cowboy lifestyle. Ty is a co-founder of National Day of the Horse, which allows us to reflect and be thankful for the role horses play in our lives and society."

