


[Print Page](#)

Serving the Hunt Country of Northern Virginia for over 23 years.

[Close Window \[x\]](#)

## Tippy Payne Represented Best of the Local Equestrian World

by **LAUREN R. GIANNINI**, For Middleburg Life

(Created: Sunday, December 14, 2008 2:13 PM EST)

'Tis the season to be jolly, a time for giving, and getting together with family and friends, but there is no way to sugarcoat a recent tragic loss to the community.

On Dec. 6, Tippy (Barbara H.) Payne flew home to heavenly pastures. She fought well to come back from a fall on Oct. 31 that left her without feeling in her extremities, after her pony spooked and stumbled just as they began trotting in the back field.

Weakened by a bout of pneumonia, she fussed about being stuck in a hospital bed and missing hunting. She was about to be released to a rehab center when she had a heart attack, or stroke, and slipped into a coma. There wasn't anything the doctors could do.

For 40 years, Tippy served as the honorary field secretary for Piedmont Foxhounds and, up until that fateful day, she hunted first flight. No visitors ever escaped her, not even when they arrived late to the meet and hounds were already screaming on.

She'd pull releases and a pen from her pockets and get their capping fees. She also made sure they paid their respects to the masters.

"On the worst days - sleet, snow, ice, rain - Tippy always had a smile on her face, and she was always ready to help anybody," says Bucky Slater, ex-MFH Piedmont. "Her heart was as big the outdoors. I awarded her colors in 2001 and Tippy was so excited. She had her buttons, but she didn't have her colors and she would never say anything, because that was the kind of person she was. I didn't know it until people told me."

Tippy had no clue how to whine or complain. She was a good sport, period. She loved to compete in the Old Timers "Piedmont Invitational" class at Upperville. Slater recalls: "When she won that class in 2002, she was so thrilled you'd have thought someone gave her a million dollars."

Everybody remembers Tippy for her smile: It was huge, bigger than her whole body. She was opinionated and feisty. If she didn't want to do something, nothing - and we mean nothing - could budge her.

Tippy Payne was born Barbara H. Moore on June 24, 1937 (that was a shocker, because she sure didn't look 71) and grew up in Norfolk. She bought her first equine when she was 13 or 14, with savings from babysitting, going without lunch, and walking instead of taking the bus. She graduated with honors as the valedictorian of Maury High School and could have written her ticket to any college in the country, but she chose Stephens in Missouri, a two-year program that offered lots of riding.

A job teaching riding at a school in the Shenandoah Valley brought her up this way. She married Charles E. Payne (they later separated) and had one son, Robert Tyson Payne. In the early 1970s when her mother died,



Tippy Payne and Ladyhawk, her favorite field hunter, enjoyed 21 seasons riding to the hounds. (Photo by Lauren R. Giannini)

Tippy used her inheritance for a down payment on a farm near Bluemont.

For her funeral, her brother Richard Moore flew in from the Netherlands with his wife, Anne Boon, and their daughter, Maria Moore. They wanted to pay tribute to his sister.

"Tippy impressed me - she always had a top horse, rode with the hunt and her friends were the *crème de la crème*," says Moore. "About four years or so ago, my wife, daughter and I went on a trail ride with Tippy. I rode Ladyhawk. I heard Tippy talking about one of her horses, a horrible dangerous horse that had put several people in the hospital, and its owner wanted to put it down. I asked, 'Which horse is that?' Tippy smiled that impish smile and said, 'The one you're riding.'"

Ladyhawk, Moore added, was one of the best hunting horses and jumped well. "Luckily she took to me," he said, "but apparently she takes to anyone, as long as Tippy's around. Tippy was a one-woman animal-rescue center."

Tippy touched a lot of lives. Even if she hadn't seen you since the last Piedmont Point-to-point or Upperville Horse Show, she smiled and greeted you like a long-lost friend. Anyone sharing her love for horses had to be okay. She's been described as a foxhunting, horse-show saint.

"Mom did everything the hard way - she was not lazy," says Ty Payne. "She didn't have much, but she had millions of friends. She was so well-liked, so well-regarded. That's really cool."

She leaves behind her nearest and dearest: son Ty, two brothers Rick and Bob, and her kindred-spirit niece Maria. Her family's loss is the entire horse world's loss.

Tippy Payne was that special.