




Celebrate the life of Rodney Jenkins, husband of Un Jin Moon

Insup Alexander Park
June 1, 2025



Please join us
as we celebrate the life of

Rodney Jenkins

Sunday, June 1, 2025
3pm - 5pm
Upperville Horse Show Grounds
1853 Club - Jumper Side

*A life so beautifully lived deserves
to be beautifully remembered.*

Rodney was passionate about horses.
We would be honored if you would
consider making a donation in his memory
to any of these worthy organizations:

THE VIRGINIA THOROUGHBRED PROJECT
virginiaoroughbredproject.org

THOROUGHBRED AFTERCARE ALLIANCE
thoroughbredaftercare.org

UPPERVILLE COLT & HORSE SHOW
upperville.com/donate/





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From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Enis Rodney Jenkins (July 3, 1944 – December 5, 2024) was an American [show jumping](#) rider and member of the [United States Equestrian Team](#) (USET), inducted into the [United States Show Jumping Hall of Fame](#). He rode showed hunters and jumpers competitively from the early 1960s to the late 1980s, winning a record 70 Grand Prix-level competitions.^[2] After retiring from the show ring, he became a [race horse trainer](#).^[3]

Early life [edit]

Enis Rodney Jenkins was born in [Middleburg, Virginia](#), on July 3, 1944.^[1] He graduated from high school in 1961 and began riding professionally in horse shows up and down the East Coast, including Florida winter circuit. Though he defined himself as largely self-taught, he came from an equestrian family, his father, Enis Jenkins, had been a huntsman for several [fox hunting](#) groups in Virginia. Jenkins and his two brothers grew up caring for horses and riding in the hunt field.^[3]

He began showing professionally at age 17 and soon was running his own show barn, at times riding as many as 50 horses in a day.^[4] Jenkins was nicknamed "The Red Rider" because of his red hair.^[3]

Even while showing, Jenkins did a little bit of racehorse training and continued to assist his father as a whipper-in on hunts. When Enis died in 1983 Jenkins bought his own farm in Montpelier Station, Virginia.^[3]

Professional career [\[edit \]](#)

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, Jenkins dominated the top horse shows. In 1967, he won four out of the six hunter-jumper champions at the [National Horse Show](#) in [Madison Square Garden](#). In the [American Horse shows Association](#) (AHSA) "Horse of the Year" awards that year, Jenkins rode winners in five of the six divisions in which he competed.

The horse Jenkins is most famous for riding was **Idle Dice**, a former **Thoroughbred** race horse who won 31 grand prix jumping championships, most with Jenkins.^[5]

Jenkins won the American Gold Cup five times, four of them in consecutive years (1972-1975), winning his last Gold Cup with The Natural in 1985. He won the Presidents Cup three times and the National Horse Show Grand Prix three times. Internationally, Jenkins finished 8th in the 1974 World Championships at Hickstead on Idle Dice and 6th in the 1980 World Cup Final at Baltimore on Third Man. However, he tended to downplay his own accomplishments and give credit to his horses, once stating, "The horse makes the rider—I don't care how good you are."^[2]

Jenkins' professional status prevented him from riding in the Pan American or Olympic Games until rule changes in the 1980s ended the requirement that riders had to be amateurs.^[3] Nonetheless, in the early 1970s professionals were allowed to ride in a limited set of international team classes, and thus he rode on sixteen Nations' Cup teams between 1973 and 1987, the team winning ten.^[2] Bertelan de Nemethy, the USET coach said "...adding Idle Dice to a show jumping string is like adding Secretariat to a racing stable..".

After the 1980 Olympics, the [International Olympic Committee](#) reviewed its "amateurs-only" rules and in 1986, the [FEI](#) decided to allow equestrian professionals to compete in the Olympics and the Pan American Games. Jenkins applied and was approved. He rode in the [1987 Pan American Games](#), held in Indianapolis. In the individual competition, Jenkins won a silver medal riding Czar and the US show jumping team won the silver team medal with the Canadian Team taking the gold. Regarding his Pan American medals, Jenkins said: "All the money I've won with horses, these two pieces of silver mean as much as all the money."^[2] He regretted that he never had the opportunity to ride in the [Olympics](#).^[6]

In 1987, at age 43, Jenkins had one of his best years, not only competing in the Pan Am games, but also winning the American Grand Prix Association's Rider of the Year award, and becoming the [American Horse Show Association's](#) Horseman of the Year.^[4]

Rodney Jenkins	
Occupation	Horse trainer, show jumper
Born	July 3, 1944 Middleburg, Virginia, U.S.
Died	December 5, 2024 (aged 80) Maryland, U.S.
Career wins	941 ^[1]
Major racing wins	
	Leonard Richards Stakes (2002) General George Handicap (2014) Maryland Million Turf (2015, 2016)
Significant horses	
	Bandbox, Running Tide, Phlash Phelps

Rodney Jenkins		
Medal record		
Equestrian		
Representing the  United States		
Pan American Games		
	1987 Indianapolis	Individual jumping
	1987 Indianapolis	Team jumping

He was inducted into the Show Jumping Hall of Fame in 1999, 12 years after Idle Dice, who was the first horse inducted.^[1] Jenkins is also a member of the National Show Hunter Hall of Fame.^[8]

Racing career [edit]

In 1989, Jenkins retired from the show ring. As the main option available to retired riders on the show circuit was to teach others, which was not a job he felt he was suited for, he quietly turned to training race horses. At first he trained [steeplechasers](#) but turned to flat racing, working primarily out of [Laurel Park](#) in Maryland.^{[3][4]} He credited his show career with giving him knowledge of [equine nutrition](#) and a background to promote soundness and good health in his horses.^[6]

Personal life [edit]

Jenkins was married to Patricia Perry; they have three children and later divorced.^[1] He was also married to and divorced from Victoria Graves.^[1] He later married [Un Jin Moon](#), and they have two children.^[1]

Jenkins died in his sleep at his home in Maryland on December 5, 2024, at the age of 80.^{[1][9]} In January 2025, the "Red Rider" was honored by the [Maryland racing community](#) with the [traditional memorial service](#) at [Laurel Park](#).^[10]

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