



Clovis Rodeo Association

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Boys at the East-End Are Honored as the 98th Clovis Rodeo Grand Marshals Buster Ford, Denny Denton and Corky Dunbar

(Clovis, CA): The Clovis Rodeo Association has named Buster Ford, Denny Denton and Corky Dunbar as Grand Marshals. Individually they each qualify in their own right to have the honor of Grand Marshal bestowed upon them. Collectively it is a story of friendship; a love for the sport of rodeo, the Clovis Rodeo, their families and the community that gives cause for these three cowboys at the east-end stripping chutes to be named the 98th Annual Clovis Rodeo Grand Marshals.

The 2012 Clovis Rodeo Grand Marshals mean a great deal to the history of the community and the sport of rodeo. Often in the background at the east-end stripping chutes during a rodeo performance there isn't a volunteer, stock contractor, cowboy or arena boss that won't tell you without Denny, Buster and Corky down there at the east-end it would be real tough to pull off a rodeo performance.

Born in Pomona in 1934, Buster Ford moved with his family to a cattle ranch in the Auberry Valley in 1937. He still lives and works on the family cattle ranch with his wife of 55 years, Shirley and it is where they raised their four sons. Buster attended Auberry Elementary School, Sierra High School and graduated from Fresno State in 1957. Ford and past rodeo director and friend Chuck Pollard, co-chaired the first Fresno State Rodeo at the Clovis Rodeo Grounds.

Born in Fresno in 1935, Denny Denton moved with his family to the community of Tollhouse in 1942. His family owned and operated the store and pie shop at Humphrey's Station. He spent his youth involved in 4-H and FFA projects. A 1954 graduate of Sierra High School it was there that he struck up a lifelong friendship with fellow grand marshal Buster Ford. During college he and good friend Corky Dunbar worked together at the Baird and Coffman feedlot. After graduating Denny worked for the Sierra Joint Union School District for 28 years; starting out as a bus driver and eventually retiring as head of transportation, maintenance and operations.

Although he was born in San Francisco and raised in Seattle, Washington Grand Marshal Corky Dunbar has always had a strong love for the country. While at Fresno State he was a member of the Fresno State rodeo team. As a member of the rodeo team he developed a lifelong love for the sport and after college easily began helping with the Clovis Rodeo. Knowing from an early age that an office was never where he was meant to be Corky found a career as Ranch Superintendent for Bill McFarlane in Clovis.

Buster, Corky and Denny will be presented with the traditional cowboy hat and belt buckle given to the Clovis Rodeo Grand Marshal during the Rodeo Banquet on Saturday, April 21 at the Clovis Rodeo Hall. The boys at the east-end will also have the honor of leading the annual Clovis Rodeo parade through the streets of downtown Clovis on Saturday, April 28. The Clovis Rodeo runs April 26-29. Tickets are available now by calling 559-299-5203, visiting www.clovisrodeo.com or directly from the rodeo ticket office at the rodeo grounds Monday through Friday, 9-5:30 p.m.

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The all-volunteer, non-profit Clovis Rodeo Association (CRA) has 700 members. Approximately \$150,000 in proceeds from the Clovis Rodeo and related events coordinated by CRA members benefit local charities annually, including 4-H, FFA, Clovis Schools, Clovis Police Activities League, California High School Rodeo Foundation, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Break the Barriers, Boy Scouts of America, Clovis Community Hospital and the Central California Blood Center.

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