



Clovis Rodeo Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Vern Barkman Named 99th Clovis Rodeo Grand Marshal

(Clovis, CA): The Clovis Rodeo Association has named Vern Barkman as the Grand Marshal of the 99th Clovis Rodeo scheduled to take place April 25-28, 2013. A devoted member of the Clovis Rodeo Association for 52 years, he has been a board member for 38 years.

A long time rodeo and community volunteer, Vern was sponsored in the Clovis Rodeo Association in 1962 by his father-in-law Les Smith and has held every office and chaired just about every committee. His offices have included President, Vice President and Secretary and committee chairmanships have included the parade, queen, horse show, grand marshal and most recently co-chairman of the ticket committee.

"This is a well deserved honor for Vern," said Chuck Rigsbee, Clovis Rodeo Association President. "He is an integral part of our rodeo and a long-standing resident and community volunteer in Clovis. It is an honor to be able to recognize him as our grand marshal of the 99th Clovis Rodeo."

Born in Ogallala, Nebraska to Peter and Tina Barkman, the family moved to California when Vern was just six years old where he was raised and worked on the family dairy farm during his high school years at Immanuel Academy in Reedley. After graduating high school he served in the U.S. Navy until September 1955 when he returned to the Fresno Area. Upon his return to the area he met and married Judy Smith and settled in the Clovis area. Proud parents of three daughters – Cindy Lawless, Sandy Christensen and Jennifer Vantassel they have five grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

Vern is retired from Union Bank of California where he served as Assistant Vice President and Agricultural Real Estate Appraiser and Field Representative. An active member of the community he has served with a number of organizations including the 20-30 Club, Lions Club and Fresno Trade Club. He was on the Board of Directors of the Clovis Memorial District and also was the Clovis representative on the Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District.

"As a member of the Clovis Rodeo Association for 52 years, I have been privileged to watch the rodeo and related festivities grow." Vern reflected. "I have met and worked with many people over the years. I have had many pleasant experiences and hope to continue my involvement with the Clovis Rodeo Board and Association for many years to come."

Vern Barkman 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 20 at the Clovis Rodeo Hall. Vern will also have the honor of leading the annual Clovis Rodeo parade through the streets of downtown Clovis on Saturday, April 27. The Clovis Rodeo runs April 25-28. Tickets are available now by calling 559-299-55203, visiting www.clovisrodeo.com or directly from the rodeo ticket office at the rodeo grounds Monday through Friday, 9-2:00 p.m.

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The all-volunteer, not-for-profit Clovis Rodeo Association (CRA) has 700 members. More than \$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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