



April 2nd 2025

In Loving Memory of Dr. Gary L. Norwood, Former WEVA Past President

Dr. Gary L. Norwood was a devoted WEVA board member and Past President (2008-2009), always encouraging and recruiting new members to ensure the organization remained vibrant and active. His dedication to building strong, collaborative relationships with representatives from around the world was unmatched. Dr. Norwood played a pivotal role in the development of WEVA's Intermedia Meetings and Congresses globally, creating profound bonds with all through his special kindness.

A graduate of Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine (1965), Dr. Norwood dedicated over 40 years to racetrack veterinary practice before retiring in 2007. His career began at racetracks in Miami and New England, and from 1972 to 2007, he was a partner at Back-Stretch Surgery and Medicine, based in New Orleans, with offices at Arlington Downs (Chicago), Churchill Downs (Louisville), Lone Star Park (Dallas), and Louisiana Downs (Shreveport).

From 1966 to 1967, Dr. Norwood served in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps during the Vietnam War. He later became Chair of the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association (LVMA) Equine Committee, where he organized its Equine Seminar program for 16 years. In recognition of his contributions, he was named Louisiana Veterinarian of the Year in 1981.

A respected leader in equine veterinary medicine, Dr. Norwood contributed to numerous scientific committees, journals, and professional events. He was a frequent speaker at the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) Congresses, addressing topics such as Emergency Care, Racing, Racetrack Regulation, and Long-Range Planning. Dr. Norwood also played a key role in several AAEP committees, including Scientific Program, Convention Planning, Governance, Internship, and the White Paper on Medications Task Force. In 1998, he served as AAEP President.

In 2007, Dr. Norwood received the AAEP Distinguished Service Award during the organization's 53rd Annual Convention in Orlando. This prestigious honor is awarded to individuals who have made exceptional contributions to equine veterinary medicine and the horse industry.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Dr. Gary was a devoted husband to Nancy and a proud father to their two children, Kelly and Justin. He often shared how much his family meant to him.

We will deeply miss his presence and are forever grateful for the opportunity to have worked alongside him, promoting and providing high-quality continuing education for equine professionals around the world.

With love from the WEVA family,

Maria Paz Zuñiga B. DVM, MSc

President, World Equine Veterinary Association