



SIGNIFICANT SIRE SERIES

How the Late Carlyle Command Lives On and On

Carlyle Command was a commanding force in the show arena, in the breeding shed, and in the heart of his long-time owner, Katie Black.

Just over a year ago, during the 2008 Grand National Morgan Horse Show, Carlyle Command laid down in his pasture, in the arms of his owner of 28 years, surrounded in adjoining fields by his beautiful progeny, and quietly shut his eyes for the last time.

He had come into Katie Black's life as a late weanling, in December of 1981. He spent his early years frolicking in her fields at Abacus Morgans in California. It was in his three-year-old year

By Abbie Felton-Trexler

that he first moved off of the farm to Oregon's Arcuri Stables.

Carlyle Command burst onto the show scene as a three-year-old, and ended his incredibly successful show career in 1989 after winning six world and three reserve world championships, and five Grand National titles. Winning back to back World Champion Stallion titles in 1986 and 1987, followed by the Park Harness World Championship in 1987, he straddled the park harness and in-hand arenas, proving that form to function is paramount.

All photos illustrating this article are of Carlyle Command throughout his long life. Photo (above, right) © Howard Schatzberg

“What did he contribute to our breeding program? Just about everything. One of our first foals was by him, and he’s out here in my backyard, WSG Ovation Command (Carlyle Command x Black Gold Mariah). Nearly all of our stock is based on him and Napaley’s Obsession, both by Carlyle Command. We bred three world champions out of Napaley’s Obsession. Carlyle Command imparts intelligence; they’re very sensitive horses and they want to please.”

Bill Givens, WSG Morgans



Photo © Avis Girdler

During the height of his show career, “Carlyle” became a hot commodity in the breeding shed. He sired his first foal in 1986, sired 12 in 1987, an incredible 27 in 1988, and 33 foals in 1989. At the time of press, his twenty-four year breeding career has produced 177 foals.

Among his most famous get is the winner of this year’s Show Horse Sire Rating, Futurity French Command, the original ‘Cowboy Dressage’ stallion Holiday Compadre, the great producer and dam of Kim’s Bellegante: Napaley’s Obsession, the multi-titled Charlestown Firecracker, the impeccable western mare French Design, the producer of world champions Star Lake Ellisa, the park saddle star NBN At Your Command, and countless other world, Grand National and regional champions.

His daughters went on to be some of the greatest producers of their generation, creating such memorable Morgans as Rampaige (by Tug Hill Commando), Festival Calypso (Immortal Command), Pacific Rim Take Aim (Tug Hill Whamunion), Kim’s Bellegante (HVK Bell Flaire), WSG Shady Lady (HVK Man About Town), MEM Playboy (Futurity French Command), MEM Twisted Sister (Cedar CreekHarlequin), Kosta Boda

“I had heard about this young promising stallion, Carlyle Command from my good friend and trainer Cheryl McLain. She was star struck by him and said I should breed my Nocturne/Beamington mare to him. Later that show season we were in Monterey, California for a Morgan horse show. It was early in the morning and stallions were about to be shown in the in-hand classes. Back then the classes were quite large. I kept waiting to see Carlyle come through the gate and asking Cheryl, “is that him?” As the last of the horses were coming in the gate I heard hoof beats, a very powerful and cadenced footfall. The sound came from behind a hedge, I could hear the last horse coming in but I could not see him. I did not have to see him, greatness is something you can hear too. He came through the gate and I, too, was in love with this proud, big, bay horse. As Simon Cowell would say, “he had the ‘it’ factor.” This horse had an aura of charisma around him. That year was his first in-hand World Championship. The following spring I bred my mare to him. I wanted a bay filly. I got a chestnut colt. He was beautiful, very proud and self-assured like his sire. He possessed complimentary qualities of both sire and dam. I named him Holiday Compadre. This horse led me to my husband, Eitan. Compadre changed both our lives. He made it better. If there was ever a horse who had a huge heart it was Compadre. The apple does not fall far from the tree.”

Debbie Beth-Halachmy, Wolf Creek Ranch

STANDING AT STUD

Roy-El's Grand Opening
(Grandiose x Roy-El's Countess)

Roy-El's Grand Slam
(Eethree Supreme x Porvenir Honey B)



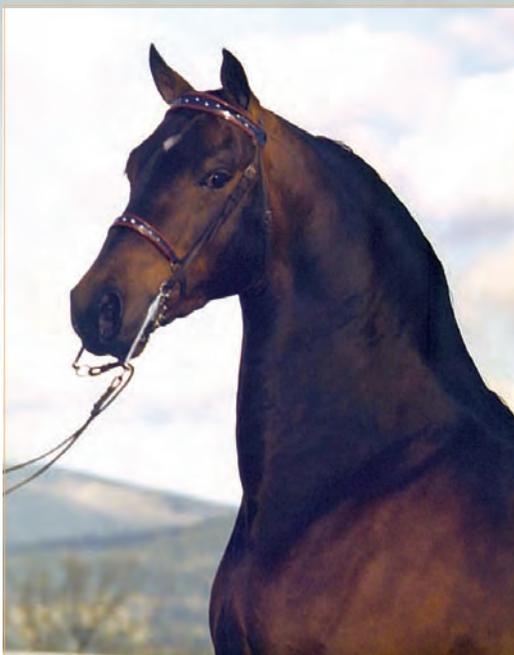
*Thanks to the great
Carlyle Command
for his contributions
to the breed!*

**PROSPECTS AND FINISHED
STOCK FOR SALE**



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“Carlyle Command is my breeding program.

Everything I've bred comes from him through NBN At Your Command, “Carly” (and by extension Stand And Deliver, “Stilts”), and in some cases he's top and bottom: Carly crossed with Astronomicallee (by Futurity French Command by Carlyle Command) produced Love Her Madly. So Vain (by Queen's Vanity Flaire, out of Carly) crossed with Astro produced Get Busy and Straight Up. I'm really excited to see what Stilt's daughter Stiletto (now owned by Sam Glick) will produce by Astro this spring.

What they get from Carly is correct type, and all that that entails. Strong hindquarter with a beautiful hip, good shoulder, short back and the athleticism that comes from that. A strong work ethic, scary smart, tons of heart and they're beautiful. And they have some of the best dispositions ever. People are always surprised when my foals seem to be born well socialized and un-scary, I guess they think show horses are supposed to be flighty at best and mean at worst. They're not, and certainly don't need to be to be good in the ring. Stilts and Kim Germ-Cramer's kids love each other. I think it was her son, Max, who wandered into his stall one day to have a chat. Kim had a minor heart attack, until she saw that Max was perfectly safe so she walked away and let them be.

Walk down the aisle at Broadmoor—Tony Lee did the count—an incredible number of those horses come through Carlyle Command by way of Astro or Carly or both. Now that's saying something.”

Tara Good, Thornwood

“Carlyle Command had a profound impact on the Morgan breed in general, with his type and character. For us at Roy-El he helped our horses with his correctness, his beauty, and his sweet temperament. Our horses have to be the whole package, brains and beauty, and he has given us that. His daughter Roy-El’s Dreamtime was a multi-national and world champion classic horse, who continued to be a cherished lesson horse. His son Roy-El’s Desert Command has been a stallion we have used to improve our already wonderful horses. We are huge fans of Carlyle Command, he was a truly great Morgan horse!”

The Seybold-Honstein Family, Roy-El Morgan Farm

“He was a majestic, handsome horse that had all of the great Morgan characteristics I like in the breed. He was a horse that always put a smile on my face. I had the great pleasure of working Charlestown Firecracker for many years and he, like his sire, just made every day enjoyable.”

Dwayne Knowles, Broadmoor



“His size was so impressive. I think he was a three-year-old when I first saw him at Far West—he was so big and so impressive, had a lot of type. He was grand! He really was.

We had two mares by him, Boston Abracadabra and Boston Cameo. Both were wonderful mares, easy to deal with, work with, good show horses, we loved having them. Abracadabra had two world champions for us, Miss Voodoo and Abracabam, she was a very good broodmare. Carlyle Command contributed his wonderful disposition, and we were lucky to have his two daughters in our breeding program.”

**Helen Crawford,
Boston Morgans**

“As a breeder, the thing I love most about Carlyle Command is that I still have five of his get here, and although they are all “different,” I can sometimes look at any one of them from different angles, and just for a moment, I think it is Carlyle.

And neighbors are always thinking they see him... even the horse people who know he is gone.

There isn’t a day that I don’t miss him. My husband misses him. The vet misses him. He was here every day of his life after his show career. We do all the horse work, so for over 20 years he was a constant bright light in our lives. When we lost him, we got a note from our vets and their staff, saying that Carlyle was the most loved horse they knew. He had that quality. He made you love him.”

Katie Black, Abacus Morgans

(Mizrahi), Abracabam (Tug Hill Whamunion), Miss Voodoo (Tug Hill Whamunion), Stand And Deliver (x Queen’s Vanity Flaire), Love Her Madly (Astronomicallee), Wish List (The Master’s Touch), Futurity Miss Munitions (Tug Hill Whamunion), Futurity Chicago Whitesox (Merriehill Chicagoan), Graywood’s Lear (Spiceolife Right Answer), MEM Triple Sec (MEM Bailamos) and RLH Electra (Beethoven).

The third generation of Carlyle blanketed the world

championships this year, evidenced by their prominence in the sire rating.

Carlyle Command’s greatest achievement wasn’t the world championships he won, but the great line of horses that he’s sired. His quality shows up in each of his foals, and in their foals, and in their foals. He’s like Justin Morgan. No matter how far you get away from him in a pedigree, his influence remains stamped on his descendants. ■