

Pierson W. "Pete" Bigelow

Knight of Windy Hill
Chestertown, Maryland
Inducted 1991

Born January 15, 1946, the son of Mary and John Bigelow of Chestertown, Maryland, Pete's life on the farm gave him his first encounters with jousting tournaments. Pete started riding in local tournaments in 1963 with friends but didn't become a serious competitor until 1975, when he joined the Eastern Shore Jousting Association. In 1976 he joined the Maryland Jousting Tournament Association, Inc. and was an active member of both associations.

He served on the Board of Directors of the ESJA in 1984, 1989 and 1990 and as Vice President in 1981. He represented the ESJA on the MJTA Board of Directors in 1981 and 1987 and as a delegate for ESJA to the National Jousting Association 1988 to 1990.

Pete served as Chairman of the ESJA's Crab Feast in 1976. He participated in a special jousting demonstration for Princess Anne in Queen Anne's County in 1977. He chaired the Chestertown Elks Tournament for 4 years. He served as publicity chairman for Kent County in 1980 and 1981 submitting jousting results to the Kent County News. In 1981 he served as Chairman of the MJTA Spring Banquet in Chestertown. He served on the ESJA's Riding Rules Committee in 1984 and 1990 and chaired the committee in 1989 and 1991. In 1987 he served on the State Championship Committee. He has co-chaired the Kent County Ag Center's Horse Show in 1987, 1988 and 1989 and helped set up for their annual joust for the past 4 years.

In 1977 Pete was the winner of the ESJA's Best Average Catch of Rings – Novice Class and took a third place in the Amateur Class at the National Championship in Washington, DC. In 1980 he won second place in at the State Championship and 4th place at the National Championship. In 1981 and 1990 he won the ESJA Semi-Professional Championship. In 1988 he was the recipient of the ESJA's President's Award – recognizing an individual who has given outstanding service to the sport of Jousting. In 1989 and 1990 he received special recognition for his participation in medieval knight demonstrations. In 1990 he was the winner of the ESJA's Best Average Catch of Rings – Semi-Professional Class.

In addition to Pete's efforts to promote Jousting in his home county and on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, he has traveled as far as Rhode Island to promote the sport. He also traveled to Delaware and New Jersey for jousting demonstrations performing the medieval knight segment. He also lobbied in Annapolis in support of keeping Jousting as Maryland's only state sport.

In addition to teaching his son and daughter to joust, Pete has encouraged many youngsters to become jousting by sharing his arches and knowledge of jousting and for years has provided transportation for them and their horses to tournaments. In his capacity as a 4-H Leader, Pete has interested many youth in the sport.

Pete Bigelow is truly a man who loves riding tournament.