

John J. Billingslea

Knight of Hilltop
Baltimore County, Maryland
Inducted 1979
Charter Member

John J. Billingslea loved people and horses and spent his entire sixty-four years enjoying both through jousting. He was born in 1913 in Towson, Maryland and died in 1978 in Fallston, Maryland. From 1957 to 1977 he rode his favorite mount, Hilltop, in tournaments, high jumping, horse shows, trail rides and parades. With much enthusiasm, he influenced his family in carrying on the sport. His two sons and two daughters have been active in many tournaments.

In his twenty or more years of jousting, Mr. Billingslea held numerous positions in the Amateur Jousting Club of Maryland. In 1958, he was one of the original organizers of the Amateur Jousting Club of Harford County which later became the Amateur Jousting Club of Maryland, Inc. Mr. Billingslea served as treasurer, vice president and two terms as president of the AJC. For twelve years, he served on the Board of Directors and he is highly recognized for his fifteen years as Chairman of the Parade Committee. As chair, he set up and ran fun days, dances, and parades for the jousting members and he promoted the sport immensely by making costumes and building floats and chariots. Mr. Billingslea also undertook the great task of leading trail rides and sponsoring tournaments on his own property. His contributions to jousting were outstanding.

“Jousting has truly benefited by his passing there, and he will be truly missed between the arches. He truly served in every capacity.” (Quote from past president of the Amateur Jousting Club)

