

LAURENCE T. GATES

KNIGHT OF ACCOKEEK

CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

Inducted 1981

Laurence Gates was active in jousting for more than 40 years. He began riding in 1923, and progressed from amateur status (considered then as the beginner's class) to professional status (advanced competition), when he was only 12 years old in 1925. Laurence won his first professional competition at the age of 14.

He was an active member for many years in the Maryland Jousting Tournament Association, serving on the State Championship Committee several times, and also on the Nominating Committee. Laurence worked hard as chairman of numerous jousts held in his area, encouraged a number of young riders to become jousters, and gave them helpful hints on improving their form.

Laurence was always helpful in setting up the track, arches and other equipment at any joust. His ready smile and good nature helped to keep everyone in a good frame of mind. One of his most outstanding qualities was his sense of fair play and good sportsmanship.

He won many tournaments and was considered to be one of the finest ridees of his era. He was also instrumental in promoting the sport of jousting in Southern Maryland.

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Fort Washington, MD
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