



## **Jon Fitterer honored with this year's Driver Family Award**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

ELLENSBURG, Wash. — Longtime Ellensburg Rodeo supporter and volunteer Jon Fitterer has been chosen as the 2013 Driver Family Memorial award recipient.

Every year, the Driver Family Award is given to a member of the Ellensburg/Kittitas Valley community who has made a significant contribution to the Ellensburg Rodeo, Rodeo Hall of Fame, or associated activities, who might not be recognized otherwise.

Fitterer is a fifth-generation Kittitas Valley resident whose family has been involved with the rodeo since its inception. He has been a co-owner of his family's Fitterer's Furniture and began his rodeo experience as a member of the Junior Posse in the 1960s.

This year marks his 25th year working as assistant chute boss at the Ellensburg Rodeo. Throughout that time, he actively recruited several additional volunteers to assist with rodeo activities. Fitterer said that throughout his years working with the rodeo, he saw it as a service beyond himself.

"It's not something we do selfishly," he said. "We do it for the concern and the care of the animals. There's a real awareness about how we can create a wonderful and safe environment for a free and wild animal."

Fitterer also was a past member of the Ellensburg Rodeo Posse and organizer of the Ellensburg Rodeo Posse Junior Rodeo event from 1988 to 2002. The Fitterer family was inducted into the Rodeo Hall of Fame in 2002.

Over the years, Driver family members have served as board members, Rodeo Posse members, contestants, arena director, and royal court members. Their legacy is closely intertwined with the Ellensburg Rodeo.

"Thank you Jon, for your valuable contributions throughout so many years. We truly appreciate all you have done, and continue to do, for the Ellensburg Rodeo," Scott Driver said.

Scott Driver, his wife, Martha Driver, and Pam Driver, Lo Driver's daughter, will present Jon with the award at the rodeo on Monday, Sept. 5.

The award is a gold and sterling silver belt buckle depicting Lo Driver riding a rearing horse as Lo delivers an Ellensburg Rodeo invitation to President Harry Truman at the Yakima airport.

Past Driver Family Memorial Award recipients:

2000 – Rex Rice  
2001 – Bertha Morrison  
2002 – Joel Smith  
2003 – Mary McManamy Seubert  
2004 – Oscar Berger  
2005 – Molly Morrow  
2006 – Gordon Wollen  
2007 – Ken MacRae  
2008 – Ann Burkheimer Reed  
2009 – Scott Repp  
2010 – Estelle Johnson  
2011 – Glenn and Edna Madsen  
2012 – Carl Schademan

This year's rodeo runs from August 30 – September 2, 2013. More information about its many competitions and events can be found online at [www.ellensburgrodeo.com](http://www.ellensburgrodeo.com).

*The Ellensburg Rodeo is one of the “old rodeos” and has earned its place as one of America’s Top 10 professional rodeos. The Ellensburg Rodeo is the final stop of the Wrangler Million Dollar Gold Tour and hosts the World Finale of PRCA’s Extreme Bulls Tour. Started in 1923 with the same volunteer spirit that still “fuels the fire” of today’s volunteers, the rodeo has grown from a local competition among ranch hands to the Professional event of today with over 600 contestants and prize money in excess of \$400,000!*

*Ellensburg Rodeo media contact: Bob Crowe – (509) 856-6572 – [bobcrowe50@gmail.com](mailto:bobcrowe50@gmail.com)*