FAMILY KEEPS RIDER'S MEMORY ALIVE WITH EQUESTRIAN EVENT BENEFITING STARS AIR AMBULANCE

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FIRST POSTED: FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2014 08:26 PM MDT | UPDATED: FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2014 08:37 PM MDT

Show jumping was Bryan Anderson's passion.

The 44-year-old renowned Calgary-based Grand Prix show jumper lost his life in a tragic riding accident in September, but his passion for the sport will live on through an event being organized in his honour.

On June 21, his family will host international competitors in the STARS Bryan Anderson Memorial Grand Prix Show Jumping Event.

His brother John Anderson, president of Rocky Mountain Show Jumping near Spruce Meadows, says the goal is to raise $100,000 for STARS as it plays a pivotal role in remote access emergencies, including those that can happen in equestrian sports.

Bryan, an accomplished rider and trainer who rode on the Canadian Equestrian Team, was out on a horse galloping through a field on his ranch south of Calgary Sept. 11 when the animal tripped and fell on him, stopping his heart.

The STARS crew was able to revive Bryan and he was flown to hospital, but later died.

Funds will be raised through participants' start fees and donations from spectators, and the family will match donations to ensure a minimum $60,000 is raised for the organization.

"I live out in the foothills, we've been running show jumping events for a long time, and I see STARS flying around the air all the time ... and the sport we do and compete in is dangerous," John said.

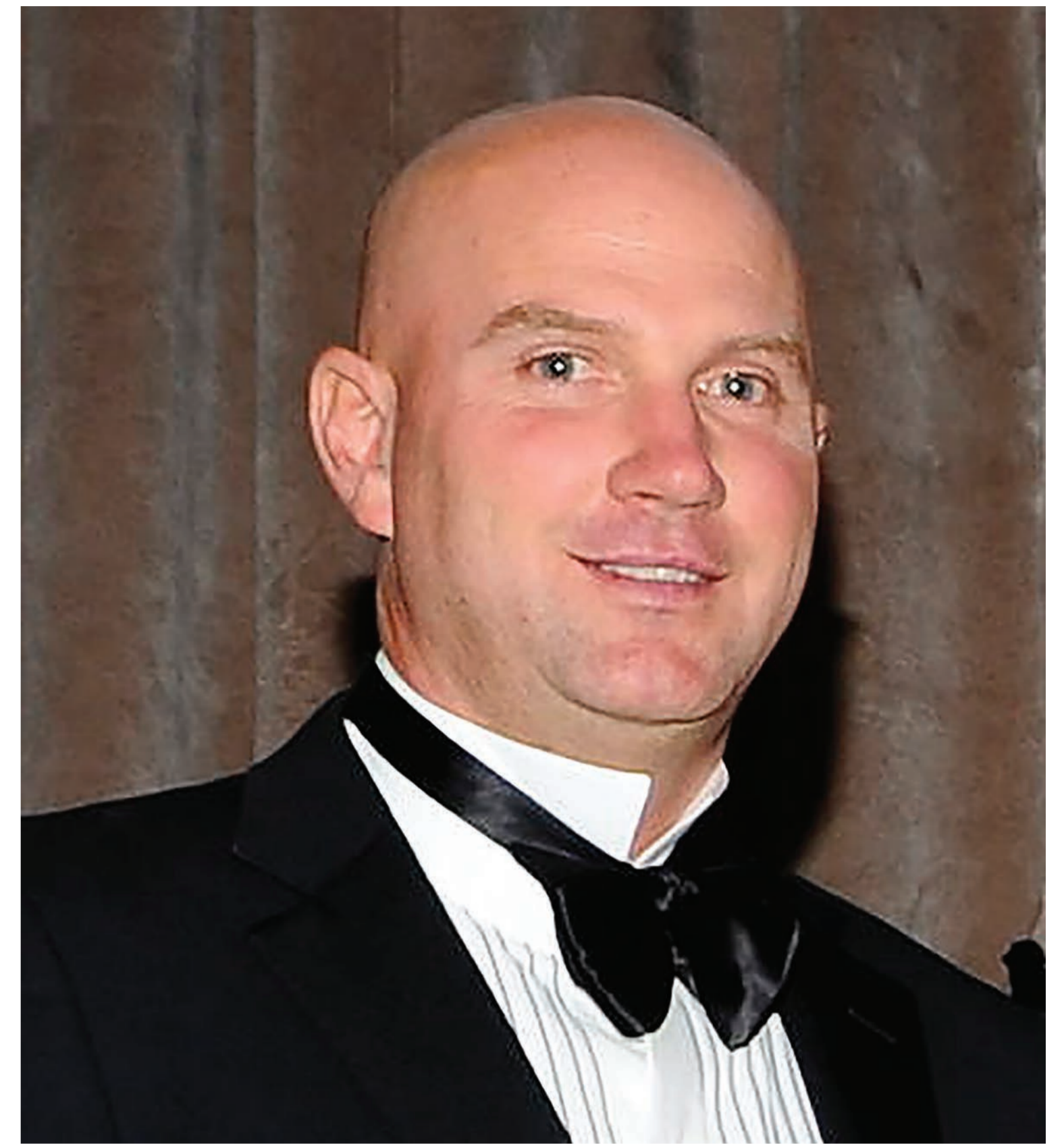"We wanted to do something to show the equine community gives back."

He still remembers seeing the STARS chopper fly over head of him as Bryan was on the way to the hospital.

Bryan Anderson passed away with his family by his side after injuries sustained from an unexpected equestrian accident while out riding in the field on his ranch south of Calgary on Wednesday, September 11, 2013 at the age of 44 years. Handout/Calgary Sun/QMI Agency

"It's just a memory now, when I see it in the air I just hope whoever is inside makes it," he said.

Though his brother didn't make it, he knows the STARS has helped so many others survive.

He encourages everyone to attend the event, which he said is a chance to watch some great show jumping and raise money for a good cause at the same time, plus honour a great man and rider.

"He was a great guy, everyone just loved Bryan," he said.

BRYAN ANDERSON Memorial Classic $60,000 CSI2*

June 21st, 2014

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