



Greetings Tennessee Walking Horse friends and family. My name is Keaton Graves; I am 17 years old and will be a senior at Frederick Douglass High school and Locust Trace Agricultural Center in Lexington KY. I currently study equine and animal science with plans to attend Midway University to pursue a degree in Equine Science Concentration.

Unlike most, I was not born into the walking horse industry. I did not own a horse, nor did I grow up around a barn, but what I did grow up with was a dream and a passion that one day I would be involved in the horse industry. 3 years ago that dream began to play out in my life when I met my trainers, Steve and Regina Swinford at Swinford Stables. Immediately after I began training with pleasure horses, a fire was lit in my soul that has kept me pursuing my passion within the Tennessee Walking Horse industry.

When I began this journey I never realized the magnitude of how much joy riding and showing horses would bring to my life. I have met so many wonderful people and learned so much in such a short time. It's true, the Tennessee Walking Horse industry is one big family and a family that I'm thankful to be a part of.

One of my most favorite accomplishments was winning the Juvenile Country Pleasure Championship at the 2018 Kentucky Celebration on Commanding The Coach. I also earned a Reserve World Champion in the Juvenile Trail Pleasure division at the Tennessee Celebration. In 2018 and 2019 I received high point awards on both Commanding The Coach and Cash's Sweet and Sassy. In addition, I was voted for the Juvenile Sportsmanship award.

Whether I'm in the barn mucking stalls, washing horses for show day, helping out wherever I'm needed or in the show ring under the lights, the love I have for this sport is indescribable. I enjoy riding and showing Country and All Day pleasure in the juvenile division. As this is my last year in the juvenile division, I am extremely thrilled to be showing a performance horse in the Juvenile Walking classes. I am excited to see what the future has in store for me with the Tennessee Walking Horse industry.

I would like to give a special thanks to Steve and Regina Swinford for their support and guidance in training and teaching me in and out of the show ring. Tom Vest (Paps) for being my favorite horse show buddy. My mom for being my biggest fan and helping make my dreams come true. My cousins Travis, Heather and Colton Caudill for always showing me support. The entire barn family, friends I've met along the way and the other juvenile riders. You all mean so much to me and I couldn't do any of this without each and every one of you.

I am excited to announce that I am running for Miss Kentucky Celebration 2020. As Miss Kentucky, I will continue to set examples for the younger juvenile riders through motivation, hard work and support. In closing, it would be an honor to be your next Miss Kentucky Celebration and I would greatly appreciate your consideration and support!

Sincerely,

Keaton Graves