

# Lonesome Dove Equestrian Center hits a major milestone

By **Emily Darrell**  
Staff Writer

**P**at Bowman, a veteran Master Sergeant of the Air Force, practices his horseback basketball at Powhatan's Lonesome Dove Equestrian Center last week. Bowman, 40, has been in rehab at McGuire Hospital, after suffering a broken blood vessel in his head that led to a massive stroke last March.

Bowman was honored as being the thousandth rider Lonesome Dove has seen since opening their stables more than four years ago. Lonesome Dove is a privately-funded not-for-profit organization that provides therapeutic horseback riding for disabled veterans.

Clint Arrington, the founding director of Lonesome Dove, is thrilled at how his program has grown over the years. Sherry Newark, one of the organization's volunteers and as she describes herself "Clint's better half," says that she's been very pleased to get a few "walk-ins" of late - i.e. veteran's who see Lonesome Dove's sign or hear about it through word of mouth and come in without the push of a therapist or doctor.

"In the last two years so many people have been coming out," Newark said happily.



PHOTO BY EMILY DARRELL

Veteran Pat Bowman was recently honored as the one thousandth rider at Lonesome Dove Equestrian Center.