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Bubba Gilliam Luncheon Speaker at 2010 NARHA National Conference in Denver

Denver, Colorado—Burton “Bubba” Gilliam will be the luncheon speaker at the 2010 NARHA National Conference in Denver, Friday, November 5. Gilliam has appeared in movies such as *Back to the Future III*, *Honeymoon in Vegas* and *Fletch* and TV shows such as “Charlie’s Angels” and “The A-Team.” His most memorable role, though, was as the doo-dah singing, campfire bean-eating Lyle in *Blazing Saddles*. The film’s unique brand of humor has captured audiences since 1974.

Before his infamous role in *Blazing Saddles*, Gilliam was a part of the Coast Guard’s boxing team. His record of 201 wins credited him with victories in more Golden Glove bouts than any one in history at that time. Although he considered turning professional, he eventually moved to Dallas and followed in his father’s footsteps by becoming a professional firefighter.

Today, Gilliam still resides in Texas where he stars in TV commercials and keeps active as a boxing referee.

NARHA’s national conference, November 3-6, is the leading event targeted at the growing field of equine-assisted activities and therapies (EAAT). Based in Denver, NARHA was formed in 1969 as the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association to promote equine-assisted activities and therapies for individuals with special needs. The needs of those served include but are not limited to developmental delay, muscular dystrophy, hearing, visual and speech impairments, spina-bifida, cerebral palsy, autism, Down syndrome, and emotional, behavioral and learning challenges. Many NARHA centers offer special programs for at-risk youth as well as



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wounded service personnel and veterans. At more than 800 member centers, men, women and children find a sense of independence through involvement with horses in activities such as therapeutic riding, hippotherapy, equine-assisted psychotherapy, driving, interactive vaulting and competition. Of the 43,000 participants helped by NARHA, nearly 80 percent are under the age of 18. Today, NARHA has more than 35,000 volunteers, 3,200 instructors, 5,900 therapy horses and thousands of contributors from all over the world. Information about NARHA is available on its website at www.narha.org.