



HONORING THE LEGACY BUILDING THE FUTURE

a campaign for the National Western Center



Photo Credit Tommy Collier

MILESTONE MOMENT

Introducing the Nan and Hugh Williamson Entry Plaza

A Message from Pete Coors

We are in the dog days of summer, and for those of us in Colorado, smoky air and mud slides seem to be attracted to the heat. But as always, we can find something to be grateful for and something to celebrate.

We've got some good news to share this month: friends of the Stock Show – and friends of mine and Doug Jones – have seen to it that the entry plaza to the HW Hutchison Family Stockyards Event Center will in perpetuity be known as the Nan and Hugh Williamson Entry Plaza.



Nan and Hugh with their grandsons, Jack and Dylan Williamson.

It pleased me to no end when Hugh reached out a couple of months ago and said he'd like to help us out after reading about our quest to get all the major areas of the Stockyards Event named, and help he did! Nan and Hugh are selfless philanthropists and volunteers to many worthy causes. They usually like to fly under the radar. But I twisted their arms and got their okay to tell you a bit about them.

Nan's family briefly lived on a ranch in Texas until her father volunteered for the Army during World War II and her mom had to sell. Nan kept riding, even competing in barrel racing in local rodeos as a teenager. When Hugh first visited Nan's family while he was in pilot training for the Air Force, her dad told him that a good horseman could ride a quarter horse bareback. Nan's quarter horse happened to be out back.

Hugh had some experience riding horses, but it had been years. He went for it anyway. Three quick falls later, Hugh made it back to the stable and told Nan's dad, "I think I'll pass on being a good horseman."

Fortunately for the National Western, Nan stuck with him, and Hugh would prove adept at steering modes of transport much faster than a quarter horse. The standout Air Force Academy cadet would go on to amass nearly 1,600 flight hours over five years of active duty. Then he went into business, ultimately leading five public companies – including a Fortune 500 company at age 42. He and Nan moved to Colorado in 1992, and they've been prominent philanthropic supporters across many dimensions. Hugh was a founding director of the Air Force Academy Foundation and has served on the United Way and Big Brother and Big Sister of America boards, among others. He and Nan also established the El Puente Foundation to create opportunities for disadvantaged and at-risk youth.



They have also been loyal supporters of the National Western, and Stock Show regulars, for three decades now, but it's the National Western's education mission that most resonates with them. Nan's service on the National Western's Denver Scholarship Program committee illustrates that.

"The National Western offers character-building experiences and programs to youth from Colorado and other western states, helping them develop personal responsibility and clear pathways to education, employment, and entrepreneurship," Nan says.

They also recognized that, after a long, pandemic-burdened year, this campaign could use just such a boost. And for that we offer our sincere thanks.

We will be doing a big celebration and cutting the ribbons for the Williamson Entry Plaza this coming January – as well as for the Cille and Ron Williams Yards, the HW Hutchison Family Stockyards Event Center, and all the areas inside and out, so stay tuned.

And since it worked out for me the last time, let me again make a pitch that, if you want to forever cement you and your family's legacy in our historic yards, we have a few naming rights in that area left. You can see the remaining options [HERE](#).

We can't wait to celebrate with all of you this January. Until next month, continue to enjoy your summer!

For questions about the campaign or making a gift, please contact

Angela S. Lieurance
Director of the Capital Campaign
Western Stock Show Association
4655 Humboldt Street
Denver CO 80216
alieurance@nationalwestern.com
303-919-5214

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