

Eternal Flame was the first register Racking Horse and the 1977 World Grand Champion. The beautiful sorrel proved his great stamina by campaigning for the elusive World Grand Champion title for four years. He tied Reserve World Grand Champion the first three years. In 1977, there was little doubt that Flame was the best horse.

Eternal Flame was born in California, but he was shipped to Tennessee as a colt. In 1970, he was purchased by Joe Bright at the Murray Farms Sale in Lewisburg, Tennessee, when he was 15 months old. Eternal Flame began his show career by winning the Goodwater, Alabama, Two-Year-Old Class in 1971 with Joe Bright in the irons. Mr. Roy Richardson of Lakeview Farms in Carrollton, Georgia, bought Eternal Flame from Joe bright in 1972. As a three-year-old, Flame was trained by Buddy Sims. After Mr. Sims' fatal automobile accident, Eternal Flame was put under training of Elwin Heatherly. Elwin and Flame competed together throughout the Southeast, with the excitement and pain of winning two reserve World Grand Championship titles in 1974 and 1975; Eternal Flame was taken to Lakeview Farms from the Heatherlys and began training under Larry Thomas. During the two years Larry showed him, Flame was never defeated in a Style Racking Class. In 1976 for the third time, this fiery horse won Reserve World Grand Champion.

The year of 1977 truly tested the wining spirit of Eternal Flame. He had colic twice. Doug McCosh purchased Eternal Flame shortly before the World Celebration. During the preliminary Style Racking Class on Tuesday night of the World

Celebration, he had and infected area above his coronet band. Throughout the week every effort was made to return him to soundness. On Saturday night, Eternal Flame showed what kind of heart a champion should have. His performance was steady and stylish, and his naturally high head didn't falter. At last, the roses were his.

Cruel irony linked Eternal Flame to his name. Tragedy occurred on February 20, 1978. Fire engulfed the Lakeview Farms in Carrollton, Georgia and engulfed the entire barn in ten minutes. Eternal Flame and sixteen other horses were killed. An eternal flame is used to commemorate heroes and men of courage. Again Eternal Flame's name is ironically appropriate. His stamina and courage would have placed him in the hero category. He will be remembered.

