



UMECRA Rider's Choice award 2018

RTM First in Line (Sis) w/ partner Linda Hamrick

Guidelines to be considered when nominating and voting for a horse for this honor:

- A horse that has shown superior ability in its division
- A horse that has been a consistent competitor
- A horse that has shown its ability to overcome setbacks
- Any horse, for any reasons the nominator admires and feels is a superior representative of the "Distance Horse"

RTM First in Line (Sis) epitomizes the meaning of the Rider's Choice Award. After two years of LD rides and nine years of endurance rides, Sis has proven herself to be a strong willed and determined competitor. Sis is all business at endurance rides and she loves her job.

RTM First in Line (Sis) has overcome several obstacles in her life. Since she was handled minimally until the age of two, it took a long time to gain her trust. Throughout her endurance career, Sis has struggled with issues that could have derailed her love of running down the trail. Early hock issues, glucose resistance/tying up, and a jaw/chewing injury were some of the issues Sis faced.

I will admit, that I almost threw in the towel a couple of times. However, the next several years proved that RTM First In Line was a talented and determined competitor, able to overcome a myriad of setbacks in her life. During 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018, Sis has been a strong and consistent endurance partner with a 97% completion rate.

2018 has been a very successful year for Sis. She completed 580 miles on her way to becoming an AERC 5,000 Mile Horse this year. RTM First in Line (Sis) has placed at or near the top of the year-end standings in AERC, UMECRA, AHDRA, and GLDRA most years of her endurance career. Last year, Sis won the Charles Phillips Versatility Award (showing her love of competitive trail riding in the pouring rain 😊). She has won the national AHA High Point Endurance Horse year-end award six times and placed in the national AERC War Mare competition many times.

RTM First in Line has completed 5,395 endurance miles, 575 LD miles, and 85 competitive trail miles during her career. I am so thankful that Sis is strong, capable, and willing to be my partner in this sport that I love. I'm looking forward to many more seasons of competition and hope for the two of us to earn the AERC Decade Team Award in 2019.