

WE CAN, WE WILL !



Captain Ken Freeman

Growing up in Chicago, Arizona artist Kenneth Freeman became entranced with art at the tender age of 6 when his mother took him for his first visit to the Chicago Art Institute. This love was to portend his future. Four years later, he began studying under the strict training of Joseph De Salvi, who was schooled in Rome, and in high school, Freeman won a series of scholarships to the American Academy of Art where he trained under William Mosby. After completing his studies, the enthusiastic young artist ventured forth on what would become a successful 20-year career as an illustrator.

John Singer Sargent has long been one of Freeman's idols. For this reason, the artist maintained a portrait style in all his art forms including oils, bronzes and most recently etched glass. Freeman's fascination with the history and culture of his current home state inspired him to choose the western life style as his subject matter. His many paintings explored the cowboy in modern times and the ageless culture of today's Native Americans.

First Lady Barbara Bush was sufficiently impressed with Freeman's Southwestern art that she invited him to show at the Smithsonian Institution in conjunction with their Native American exhibition. Freeman was also known for original art and posters that depict the Hashknife pony express ride. Arizona Senator John Kyle selected two of these posters for display in the Library of Congress and to be included in the Legacy Project.

Freeman's work has been featured in Southwest Art and Arizona Highways. He also illustrated book covers for numerous western writers, including renowned author, Louis L'Amour. Additionally he produced a collection of original works for Hamilton Collectibles ten-plate series called, "Proud in Families".

Ken passed away in May, 2008.

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