

University of South Alabama Receives Mobile Native and Top Lobbyist Who Was Honored by Queen Elizabeth As Guest Speaker

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EINPresswire.com/ -- This week, the University of South Alabama (USA) student organization Animal Rights Alliance received guest speaker and Mobile native [Marty Irby](#) at a special event, where Irby spoke about animal protection issues and lobbying for animals in our nation's capital.

Irby is the executive director at Animal Wellness Action and a senior vice president at the Center for a Humane Economy. The animal-advocacy groups are based in Washington, D.C.



Irby with faculty advisor Heather Dail and students with the Animal Rights Alliance

Irby is a graduate of both UMS-Wright Preparatory School and USA. At the university, he was a member of Eta Epsilon chapter of the Sigma Chi Fraternity. He was named one of The Hill's Top Lobbyists for 2019, 2020, and 2021 and [was honored](#) in 2020 by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for his work to protect horses. He is an

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*Heather Dail, Faculty Advisor
at USA*

elected board member and secretary of the Organization for Competitive Markets and serves on the campaign steering committees for U.S. Reps. Nancy Mace, R-S.C., and Buddy Carter, R-Ga. Irby is a former elected member of the Mobile County Republican Executive Committee that represented Semmes and former chairman of the Mobile County Young Republicans and served as communications director and policy advisor for Rep. Ed Whitfield, R-Ky.,

before Whitfield retired from Congress.

At the USA event, Irby covered the issues of horse slaughter, horse soring, doping in American

horse racing, and the plight of our iconic American wild equines residing on public federal lands, as well as the FDA Modernization Act led by Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., that passed the U.S. Senate in September with the support and cosponsorship of U.S. Senator [Tommy Tuberville](#), R-Auburn. The FDA Modernization Act also is backed by U.S. Rep. Barry Moore, R-Dothan, as well as 107 additional House cosponsors, and would repeal a 1938 mandate requiring animal testing for any drug approved by the FDA. The Depression-era regulation increases costs and time-to-market for new pharmaceuticals while sacrificing millions of animals on tests that are far less accurately predictive than modern alternatives, such as organs-on-chips.

Irby also dug into his work on the Big Cat Public Safety Act with Tiger King star Carole Baskin. That legislation passed the U.S. House in July and is expected to clear the Senate and head to the President's desk to be signed into law in the coming weeks.

In addition, the event was luckily timed and coincided with the passage of animal protection Irby has long-championed – the Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act to end horse abuse – on the U.S. House floor that very night. Students at USA were able to watch the vote live following Irby's presentation.

"We were honored to host Marty, who gave an engaging presentation," said Heather Dail, an English Instructor at USA who serves as Faculty Advisor for the student organization Animal Rights Alliance. "Animal rights in politics is a unique intersection of disciplines, so hearing Marty speak on this as well as seeing the U.S. House vote on one of the bills he championed was fascinating for students to witness live."



Marty Irby Presenting at the University of South Alabama on November 14, 2022

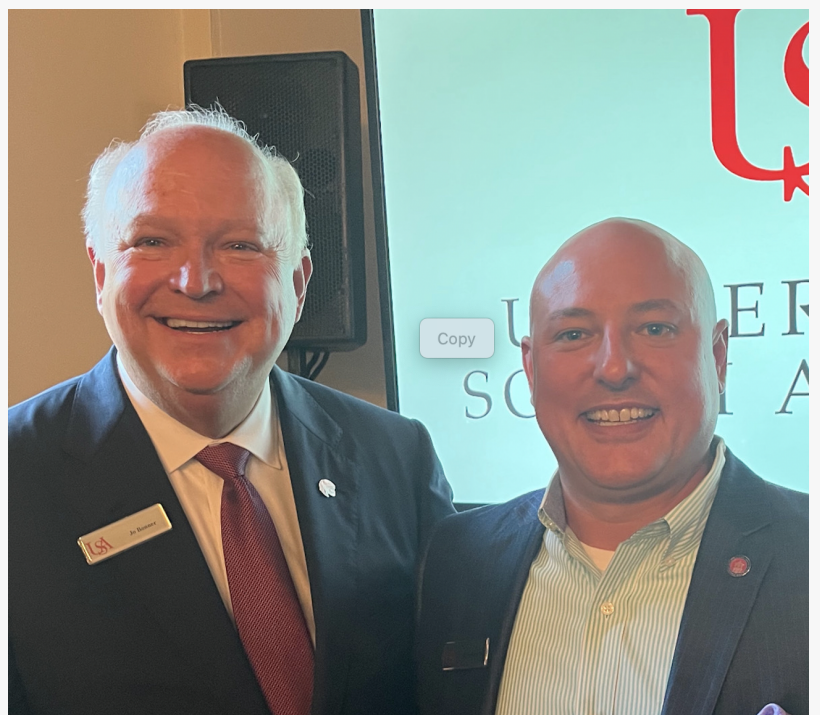


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"It was truly a great honor for me to speak to the students at South about animal protection issues and the politics of Washington, D.C.," said Marty Irby. "I hope each attendee will take something I shared and apply it in daily practice to help animals and utilize their own voice with elected officials. Mobile will always be home to me and where my heart is, and I am grateful to President Jo Bonner, Heather Dail, and the entire USA team for the wonderful hospitality they welcomed me with."

Upon graduation from USA in 2003, Irby left Mobile to move to Tennessee where he won eight world championships and later served as the president of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders' & Exhibitors' Association, the breed registry established in 1935. He subsequently moved to Washington, D.C., after testifying at a Congressional hearing about horse abuse in 2013 and has since testified before the U.S. House of Representatives on numerous occasions, most recently in 2020 in support of the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act that was signed into law by President Donald J. Trump that same year. Trump previously recognized Irby at the signing of the Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture (PACT) Act in the Oval Office in 2019, and in total, signed six animal protection bills into law during his presidency that Irby lobbied for.

Animal Wellness Action is a Washington, D.C.-based 501(c)(4) organization with a mission of helping animals by promoting legal standards forbidding cruelty. We champion causes that alleviate the suffering of companion animals, farm animals, and



USA President and former Congressman Jo Bonner with Marty Irby Washington, D.C. on July 21, 2022



Marty Irby and President Donald Trump at the signing of the PACT Act in November

wildlife. We advocate for policies to stop dogfighting and cockfighting and other forms of malicious cruelty and to confront factory farming and other systemic forms of animal exploitation. To prevent cruelty, we promote enacting good public policies, and we work to enforce those policies. To enact good laws, we must elect good lawmakers, and that's why we remind voters which candidates care about our issues and which ones don't. We believe helping animals helps us all.

The Animal Wellness Foundation (Foundation) is a Los Angeles-based private charitable organization with a mission of helping animals by making veterinary care available to everyone with a pet, regardless of economic ability. We organize rescue efforts and medical services for dogs and cats in need and help homeless pets find a loving caregiver. We are advocates for getting veterinarians to the front lines of the animal welfare movement; promoting responsible pet ownership; and vaccinating animals against infectious diseases such as distemper. We also support policies that prevent animal cruelty and that alleviate suffering. We believe helping animals helps us all.

The Center for a Humane Economy is a non-profit organization that focuses on influencing the conduct of corporations to forge a humane economic order. The first organization of its kind in the animal protection movement, the Center encourages businesses to honor their social responsibilities in a culture where consumers, investors, and other key stakeholders abhor cruelty and

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