



For Immediate Release: December 9, 2015

Contact: Karen Woods

[kwoods@nationalwestern.com](mailto:kwoods@nationalwestern.com)

Office: 303-299-5522

**The National Western Stock Show Announces Rich Karlis as Parade Grand Marshal**

*Denver, CO.* - The National Western Stock Show announces former Denver Broncos placekicker and long-time Colorado resident, Rich Karlis, as the 2016 Parade Grand Marshal for the 110<sup>th</sup> National Western Stock Show.

Rich Karlis has become a legend in the Denver community through his seven seasons as the barefoot placekicker for the Denver Broncos, his philanthropic initiatives with youth programs, and his current role with CenturyLink, Colorado Division supporting historical events like the National Western Stock Show. Karlis and his family have a strong appreciation for the agricultural industry and share a passion for horses as active members in the equestrian community.

“Rich is a dedicated family man, an active member in the Denver community, and a true ambassador of our western lifestyle as evident in his family’s love for horses,” said Paul Andrews, President & CEO of the National Western Stock Show. “We are honored to have a Denver legend and passionate Stock Show supporter as our Parade Grand Marshal.”

“I am flattered to be selected to lead the National Western Stock Show kick-off parade,” said Karlis. “Since moving to Colorado in 1982 as a walk on free agent with the Broncos, I quickly fell in love with the Denver community and the beauty that surrounds it. I knew this is where I wanted to raise my family. The first National Western event I attended was in 1983 and I’ve been an avid fan ever since. CenturyLink is proud to support this annual gathering that celebrates our western heritage.”

Twenty-eight years ago, Karlis was doing something very different in January. The frigid day, January 11, 1987, in Cleveland Stadium when Karlis walked out on the frozen turf barefoot and kicked a 33-yard field goal to beat the Browns 23-20 in overtime. The kick won the AFC championship and sent the Broncos to their second Super Bowl.

On Thursday, January 7, Rich and his family will lead a 110-year-old Colorado tradition of Longhorn cattle, horses and western wagons through the streets of downtown Denver to celebrate the start of the 2016 National Western Stock Show, January 9-24. The parade begins at noon at Union Station and marches 15 blocks down 17th Street showcasing Denver’s western tradition with marching bands, horses, cattle, tractors and stagecoaches.

The National Western Stock Show Parade concludes with the annual barbecue lunch in the atrium of the Wells Fargo Building at 17th Street & Broadway beginning at 11:30 a.m. Lunch guests will enjoy great western barbecue, music, western fashions and Denver Mayor, Michael B. Hancock's proclamation of January 7, 2016 as DRESS WESTERN DAY in Denver. The barbecue is open to the public and benefits the 4-H International Youth Group; lunch tickets are \$10.

For more information, please contact the National Western Stock Show at 303-297-1166 or log onto our website at [nationalwestern.com](http://nationalwestern.com).