



Carol Kaliff / Hearst Connecticut Media

Bettina Drummond, on her farm in Washington on Nov. 5.

EQUESTRIAN EARNS DISTINCTION

Washington woman 2nd American to receive honorary title



By Katrina Koerting

WASHINGTON — Bettina Drummond remembers watching renowned equestrian Nuno Oliveira on horseback, suspended in the air with the sunlight streaming on his face.

"It was like seeing a great dancer," said Drummond, 55, and a noted equestrian herself.

She now teaches others in the art of dressage. Her instructional work and skill earned her the honorary title of "écuyere," making her just one of 26 at the Cadre noir, which is the corp connected to the French National Riding School in Saumur. She is also only one of just a few women and the second American to get the distinction.

"For people who are raised in the art form of riding, it's akin to winning the Olympics," Drummond said. "It really is an honor and unsought. It's recognition from people I have admired for a very long time."

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