



Rambling Willie

## Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

May 2019

Remember,  
I pray for all  
our members  
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

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Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen  
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### In Memorium Memorial Day—May 27

This issue of the  
newsletter is printed in  
memory of the men and  
women who  
died serving  
in the US  
military.



### Thinking Like a Horse

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

According to Bruce Ranger, “It takes a while to learn to think like a horse.” Greg Gehman and I were talking about today’s fast race times. He said drivers don’t sit and rate the mile so much anymore. All the quarters are fast. I called Bruce for his thoughts.

Bruce said, “Many drivers today just look at the overnight sheet, see they have the three hole and decide they are going to the top. They never waver. It is important to be flexible and adjust your strategy according to what is going on in the race. It takes a long time to become a good driver and you have to work at it. I go into a race with plan A, B, C and D.” Bruce is in the moment with his horse and those around him from behind the starting gate to the finish line.

Jesus tells about a man who had two sons. One son begged him for his inheritance and went off squandering it on fast living. Broke and hungry, he realized even the pigs in his charge had a better life and wished they would share their pods with him. He thought about his father and what a good man he was. His father’s hired help had plenty to eat and here he was dying of hunger (Luke 15:11-17).

Finally, he said, “I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’ So he set off and went to his father” (Luke 15:18-20).

“While he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ... [He] said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a

robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate” (Luke 15:20-24).

In the past, many trainers would drive the horses they trained. Bruce says, “Today, most drivers are catch drivers. We have many new catch drivers here in Maine. A person can’t expect to just hop on a race bike and head to the gate and drive a good race. It takes a long time to become a good driver. New drivers can learn from watching other drivers and races and from their own mistakes. Some drivers don’t want to listen to advice.”

The Prodigal Son thought he knew it all and headed out rejecting his father, concerned only with the present. He expected life to be a rose garden. He had plenty of money and that was all he needed. His father and his family were not important. It took him a while before he realized how good his father was and just how much he missed him.

Sometimes we act like new catch drivers or the Prodigal Son. We are only concerned with this present world and want to live life on our own terms. We forget God in heaven who loves us and wants to see us succeed. God knows us and understands us and realizes why we do the things we do.

Jesus told the story of the Prodigal Son to show God’s love for all people and God’s desire to welcome everyone back into the family. As soon as we realize God and God’s ways are what we really want and turn back to God, God forgets our sin, embraces us and gathers all of heaven to celebrate (Luke 15:7). It takes a while to understand how God thinks.



*From Amy Bondon...*

Bless your prayers. I am so incredibly thankful for them. Dr is very optimistic he got all the cancer. Praying that is so. I thank God for this excellent care.

*From Lillie Brown...*

My youngest son, Rahim had a kidney transplant on November 17, 2016 and thank GOD he is doing well.

*From Chaplain Ken Carter...*

Karen's latest tests showed her cancer level is right near normal and her hemoglobin is in normal range. Praise God!

*From Joan Harp...*

Warren's latest tests and scans are encouraging, actually his Oncologist is amazed he is doing so good. His doctor didn't know him when he was well and in his younger days and just how tough he has been all his life.

One other reason, with the help of everyone's prayers and our doctors, he is still with us and able to train his 3 yr old filly. Thank you so much♥☐

*From James Kolnick...*

As always, thank you for all your prayers and kind thoughts by all partners. My health is what all the doctors are calling stable. (No horse pun intended).

*From Chaplain John Prescott...*

The good news today for us is that Valerie's CT scan proved negative to the spread of cancer. Now she must go through a six week five day a week radiation therapy and a mild chemo to shrink the remaining tumor. Her Dr. was very optimistic. Minutes before the Dr. walked into the conference room with the good news God spoke to Valerie and told her that she would be healed so that she may accomplish the work that God has prepared for her. This revelation was very heartening to me. I want to thank the prayer partners for their prayers A friend of mine had a massive heart attack two years ago, rushed to Syracuse hospital and lay in ICU teetering between life and death. He told me after he recovered that as he was laying there possibly dying there were beams of light, hundreds of beams of light penetrating his body which he later learned were the prayers of the saints. Saints pray, for your prayers are beams of light sent to accomplish their goal. God bless!.John Prescott

*From Jess Smith...*

Madisyn Smith began to walk and talk over the past year and a half. She started kindergarten this year.

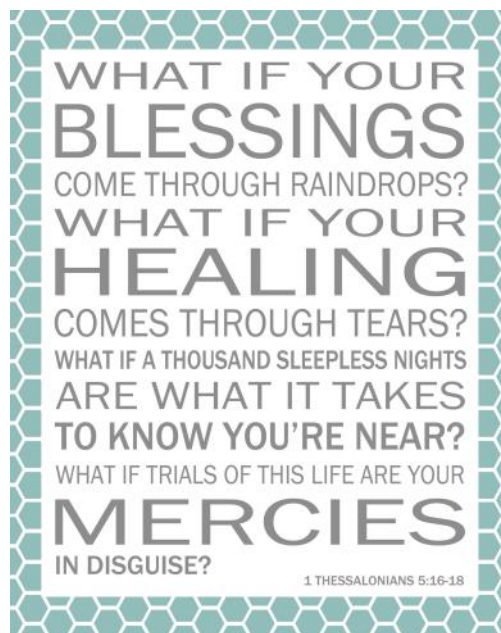
NOTE: Madisyn has been on our prayer list for several years. Thank you for your prayers. Praise God! They are working!



*May the angels  
lead you into paradise*  
Memorials posted at [www.chha.net](http://www.chha.net)

**Memorial Contributions**

- In memory **Doug Ackerman** of by: Ada Jean Ackerman
- In memory of **Jean Banks** by: Al and Kendra Casselman, Lois and Loren Combs and Jim and Judy Ferguson
- In memory of **Dean and Steve Beachy** by: Grace Clearwater and Sharon Teefey
- In memory of **Sherie Hankins** by: Kim Hankins
- In memory of **Leslie Lederman** by: Larry Lederman
- In memory of **Billy Lichtensstiger** by: David and Faye Haggard and Robert and Janelle Hartman
- In memory of **Art Mac Innis** by: Peter Blood
- In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables
- In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables



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OR

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**To Donate Now—Click here**

**Choose a Free Gift with your \$20 donation**

### Gifts for family and friends

10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (see picture)

CHHA Blue Hat

Horseshoe Nail Cross necklaces and key rings—see below

#### Books

*Daily Oats* by Chaplain Sam Ed Spence

*Downloading God* by Jack Levine

*Live A Life That Matters for God* by Jack Levine

*My Addict Your Addict* by Jack Levine

*Where the Rubber Meets the Road with God* by Jack Levine

*Don't Blow It With God* by Jack Levine

*Sound Mouth—Sound Horse, The Gager Method of Equine Dental Care*  
by ER Gager and Bob “Dusty Rhodes”

*Still: A Story of the Black Doctor of the Jersey Pines* by Edmund R Gager



**CHHA Hat**



**Rambling Willie Remembers**

These lovely 5 x 7 Rambling Willie cards are packaged in sets of 10 cards. They are blank inside.

### Horseshoe Nail Cross Necklaces and Keyrings

#### Horseshoe Nail Product Descriptions

**Key Ring:** Horseshoe nails are bent into a cross and tied together with colored wire. Key ring is attached with rawhide.

**Necklace:** Key ring: Horseshoe nails are bent in to a cross and tied together with colored wire.

**Horseshoe Nail Item Order Form—Orders can also be placed at [www.chha.net/products](http://www.chha.net/products)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail with \$20 each + \$4 shipping to:

**Roger Huston · 225 Fieldbrook Dr · Cannonsburg, PA 15317**

Necklace Qty: **Red** \_\_\_\_ **Blue** \_\_\_\_ **Turquoise** \_\_\_\_

Keyring Qty: **Red** \_\_\_\_ **Blue** \_\_\_\_ **Turquoise** \_\_\_\_ **Silver** \_\_\_\_

**Other colors are available upon request.**





## Obituaries continued from page 5

**Donato "Don" Pasquale Latessa**, 92, died Feb 19 in Pompano Beach. Don purchased the engineering company he worked for, Regal Diamond Grinding Wheel. In 1956, he patented a Flexible Abrasive Grinding Wheel. He further expanded his business and developed Finishers Supply Company. At 46, he sold his companies and went into horse racing. He served on the Board of Directors at the Painesville Fairgrounds for many years. He was the owner, trainer, and driver of many harness horses before becoming a judge at many racetracks.



**Billy E. Lichtenstiger**, 89, of Ossian, IN, died March 7. He was born October 25, 1929, in Decatur, IN, the son of the late Elias M. and Areda M. (Werling) Lichtenstiger. Billy earned a Bachelor in Education from Mankato State, served in the US Army (Korean War), and was a marketing specialist for General Electric Co. For over fifty years of his life, he also was very involved in the harness horse industry, breeding, training and racing horses for Travel Gait Farms (with his father, Elias) and then his own Tiger Farm. During his racing career, he received many accolades from his peers and harness industry awards. He was also a member of the United States Trotting Assn. and The Christian Harness Horsemen's Assn. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Hazel L. Lichtenstiger of Ossian, daughter Cindy Jo (John) Morr of Decatur, a grandson Andy C. Dobler of Alliance, NE, and two great-grandsons, Billy L. and Henry J. Dobler."



**Harold Arthur MacInnis**, age 73, died on Thursday, February 28, 2019 unexpectedly. He lived in Massachusetts, then moved to Fairfax Virginia. Following retirement, he vacationed in Fort Lauderdale with his beloved wife for the winter months. He truly enjoyed meeting and chatting with his friends at Casablanca Cafe. Also, he loved vacationing at Cape Cod, MA and Ocean City, MD. He loved life to the fullest. He enjoyed using the computer, chatting with friends, loved sports, harness and thoroughbreds horse racing, music, watching movies.



**Lawrence E. "Larry" Marsh**, 86, of Stafford, AZ, died Feb 16. Larry was the creator of the first Arlington Million and co-founder of Hollywood Park Racetrack. John Berry called him "the man who really changed the face of" and "the finest thing ever to happen in the history of" Illinois racing. During his tenure in Thoroughbred and Standardbred racing, he impacted nearly every aspect of the business. Working as a lobbyist and director of racing and racing secretary. He was also founder of Marsh Stud, a state-of-the-art breeding and training facility. Larry also created Solarflame Inc., one of the first solar energy companies, and LeRoy Power Alcohol, Inc., an ethanol fuel production company.



**Eugene D. "Gene" Oldford**, 86, of Michigan, died Feb 25. His career in harness racing as a breeder, owner, and administrator led to his induction into the Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association Hall of Fame as numerous other accolades. Gene founded Oldford and Associates, an automotive manufacturer's representative sales firm, in 1973 where he continued to work until his unexpected death. He was also co-founder of Black River Manufacturing, Port Huron. His son, Stephen, is a U.S. Trotting Association director and amateur driving champion.



**Linton A. Quirion**, 80, a resident of Livermore, ME, died February 18. He proudly served in the U. S. Navy. Linton worked in the paper industry retiring from Sappi Pulp and Paper Company, Hinckley. Linton and his wife, Tina, were actively involved with their race horses for 55 years.



**Edward R. "Bramps" Rohr III**, 72, died March 18. Bramps' biggest passion was harness racing. He grew up frequenting race tracks with his father and continued on the tradition with his children. He bought his first horse in 1989 and has owned horses ever since. He was very proud of all his children and the work ethic he instilled in them. In the most recent years, he could always be found at the track rooting on his grandson who is working on becoming a professional harness driver.

**Kirk A. Sparks**, 47, died March 11. Kirk loved training horses with his dad, Oakley, and worked as a trainer off and on for 27-plus years. If Mr. Sparks was known by one thing, it was the love he had for his kids — he doted on them. He was so proud of their academic and sports accomplishments. He also taught them the value of hard work. In his spare time, he loved to hunt and fish, but regularly had his kids going with him.

**Charles D. "Doug" Stovall**, 81, of Lebanon, OH, died Feb 10. After being in business with his father as a ceramic tile craftsman, Doug pursued his horse racing career in the mid-1970s. He was an owner, trainer, and driver until his health prevented him from being active. He loved watching the races and all sports, playing cards, and took pride in mowing the paddocks and yard.



**Orson Lester "Buck" Weaver**, 91, of Harvard, IL, died Feb 8. Buck taught high school and coached several different sports in Wisconsin. Later he purchased a farm and installed a half-mile racetrack. For the next several decades, he broke, trained, and raced Standardbreds and broke yearlings. His children, Sara and Wayne, grew up training and racing horses alongside their father, and continue in the sport to this day. Buck was known as an announcer throughout the Midwest. For almost 60 years, he was known as the voice of the Northern Illinois Colt Association and also served on its board of directors. In addition to his well-known catchphrases, such as "Heeere they come" and "There's pacers coming from everywhere,"

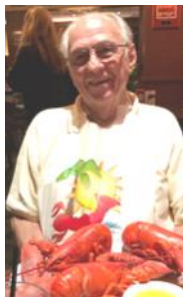


## Obituaries

**Jean M. Banks**, 82, of Sandwich, IL, died March 7. Jean started her nursing career in 1958 and retired in 1992. She was a member of Moline Lutheran Church and later became a member of the United Methodist Church of Sandwich. She was a member of the Speedy Fillies Organization. She enjoyed watching horse racing and Hallmark movies.



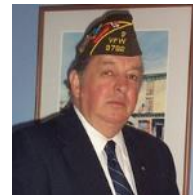
**Chaplain Kelly Blanton**, 90, of Miami Lakes, FL, died May 12. Kelly served as the first Executive Director for the Racetrack Chaplaincy of America in the 70s. In that capacity, he spent the summer of 1976 at Rockingham Park helping Chaplain Lee Alphen ramp up her ministry there. Kelly spent his life serving our Lord in missions, pastoring churches, and as chaplain at our racetracks. Most recently, he was chaplain at Pompano Park Raceway. The



horsemen and women there loved his weekly bible study. Kelly and his wonderful wife, Jacqueline, enjoyed many exciting adventures. He adored his daughter Rolline, son, Tommy, two grandchildren, twin boy great-grandsons and his great-granddaughter. His Lord and his family were his life.

**Wilbur D. "Will" Kirkwood**, 86, of Townsend, DE, died March 18.

Will began training and driving harness horses in the early 1970s. He found his greatest joy working on the family horse farm, Wilchar Farm. Throughout his life, Will volunteered in many organizations. He founded the Middletown Chamber of Commerce and served as the Charter President for many years. The chamber honors him each year by awarding a deserving member the Will Kirkwood President's Award.



**Obituaries continued on page 4**

**Sources for Obituary information include:**

[www.harnessracing.com](http://www.harnessracing.com), [www.ustrotting.com](http://www.ustrotting.com) and [www.standardbredcanada.ca](http://www.standardbredcanada.ca)

## Prayer Corner

**Please pray for all the people on our Prayer List who are battling cancer, especially:**

Lynn Antonelli, Lew Arsenault, Dan Ater, Emily Bier, Debbie Boardman, Jeanne Duso Boudot, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Chaplain Bo Bullock, Rick Carson, Karen Carter, Sam Castimore, Candice Coleman, Barbara Connors, Sharon Cromer, Joe Crothers, John Cross, Rolly Day, Mike Deeters, Barbara Dinning, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Francine Federici, Tiffany Fisher, Lloyd Fortune, Rodney Grady, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, Warren Harp, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Glenda Holloway, Jeff Hurst, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, AJ Keaton, Harold Kelly, Bob Kinsey, Jim Kolnick, Donnie Knight, David Kovach, Larry Lederman, Rox Liles, Anabelle Lisi, Kevin Mack, Ricky Macomber, Nelson Malin, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Donna McIvor, Mrs Miller, Frank Mirahmadi, Lalya Mosley, Corey Murphy, Howard Niels, Pierre Noel, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Dee Parsons, Margie Polhamus, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Emily Roper, Daren Richner, Taila Kaponinskyi, Del Smart, Elaina Storlazi, Doug Stringer, Jack Taylor, Carrie Thompson, Gary Tyron, Fred Ward Sr, Roland Wardel, Marty Woebkenberg, Maddy Wright, Joyce Zeasapolowski.

**These friends are also in need of our ongoing prayers:**

Jason Apperti, Jordan Aracena, Chaplain Kelly Blanton, Ken Bartels, Pleasant Batson, Gary Bennett, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Stephanie Bouchard, Danny Breton, Charlie Brigham, Betsy Brown, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Bob Cain, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Mary Clements, Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta, Bev Crane, Chet Crane, Karen Crothers, Dale, Jim Ferguson, Melanie Fisk, Scott Freck, Sylvain Gagnon, Greg Gehman, Dr Howard Gill, Bob Goth, Barbara and Brent Graham, Debbie Gray, Bob Hilliard,

Vickie Howard, Bob Jones, Ruby Hensley, Miguel Hernandez, Paul and Mrs Hershey, Carol Heusinkveld, Trudy Hite, Jerry Hissam, John Hostler, Jason Hughes, Jesse Hughes, Donna Ingram, Don James, Kenny Kane, Dave Kelly, Barbara Kinsey, Thelma Klark, Michael Klark, Victor Kiss, Art LaPlante, Larry Lawter, Ray Levay, Sam Lilli, Katherine Lonager, Sharon Lowell, Faye Mackey, Terry Mahar, Joanne Maiorca, Pedro Martinez, Jr, Kaye McDonnell, Dean Miller, Raymond Miller, Nancy Miner, Mike Murphy, Doug Nash, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Waverly Parsons, Susan Parks, Louise Pelletier, Rita Polese, Noreen Paulen, Art Plant, Joanne Ranger, Donnie Richards, Lori Romanetti, Tori Scott, Delma Smart, Madisyn Smith, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Monica Thors, Lorraine Truitt, Mel Turcott, Justin Vance, Barry Vicroy, Max Walton, Steve Warner, Greggie Welch, Jr, Alice Williams, Anne Winters.

**Please try to keep me updated about the people on our prayer list.**

**Please pray for those serving in the military, especially:**

John Beauregard, Joshua Hankins, Yann Lamiq, Chris Petruzzo, Sgt David Thomas, and Elizabeth Welch.

**Special Intentions for this month:**

Chaplain Lee Alphen has severe back problems and pain.

Dan Ater's cancer has spread.

Amy Bondon is recovering from cancer surgery.

Mario Brown had rotator cuff surgery.

A friend's brother's prostate cancer has returned.

Noah Carter has acute disseminated encephalomyelitis affecting his spine and brain.

Dr Jim Cummings had rotator cuff surgery March 6.

Norman Dessureault's mom is 99. She wants God to come get her.

Dorothy B. Houghton, Billy Houghton's mom, is in Hospice.

Vivian Farrington fell and broke her hip.

Glee Hart's cancer is spreading.

Marsh Townley had back surgery.

Ann Toita had another cancer operation.



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USA



Please indicate  
Address corrections

Information at [www.chha.net](http://www.chha.net)

### Important Obituary Ideas

By Gary Cartwright



I have been a supporter of CHHA for many years and one of the primary reasons is the continuing dedication to prayer and honoring those who have passed by posting obituaries in the monthly newsletters as well as updates to prayer partners. Most obituaries are written by a family member and focus on education, career accomplishments and personal interests.

As we leave this earthly life and enter eternity with Jesus, how do we want people to remember us? What really is important is our legacy and the impact we have had on our family and friends for His Kingdom. What did we do in our brief life that led others to Jesus and how did we live our life as an example to those we loved? What did we do so that on our judgement day we will hear? "Well done my good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21).

My father wrote his own obituary and as with everything in his life, it was a great example of what was important to him. He had many educational, career and military accomplishments but what was important to him was his family and love of Jesus Christ. What is important to you in your legacy? You may consider writing your own obituary so those you love and others will know.



Amazon Smile is sending CHHA \$72.64 for October - December Amazon Smile purchases. The Amazon Smile Foundation donates 0.5% of the purchase price of qualifying purchases to the customer’s selected charitable organization when they shop at [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com).

If you have not already selected CHHA as your charity, go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-1056232>.

**Thanks for supporting CHHA while shopping at Amazon!**

### Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz

Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz are wonderful Christians who genuinely care about all of us in harness racing, especially those who race in Ohio. It is always great to see them at our Jug week Prayer Breakfast.



Lisa retired from her Hard Hat Construction job to spend more time around the horses. She does a fantastic job heading up the CHHA Scholarship Committee. Lisa is Treasurer at Ohio Colt Racing Association, Clerk/Charter Ohio Fairs and Secretary/Treasurer at The Signature Series.

Dr Bob and Lisa often remember Ohio horsemen and women who pass on with a memorial gift to the Christian Harness Horsemen’s Association. To date, they have made 40 gifts in memory of members of our harness racing community.

*Thank you Dr Bob and Lisa!*

### Gaitway Farm Event—Cancelled

Severe back problems are making it impossible for me to make the trip to New Jersey in June for our Gaitway Farm event. Besides, Amy Bondon who helps at the event is in Florida recovering from cancer surgery and other complications.

We will both miss seeing everyone!!! Remember though—You are in our prayers.

