



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

July 2019

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

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Woodlawn Vase

Trophies and Medals

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

An oversized floral garland adorned Preakness winner War of Will in the winner's circle. Later his owner, Gary Barber, was presented with a duplicate of the Woodlawn Vase. Preakness officials say the original is the most valuable trophy in American sports.

According to www.necn.com, "The Woodlawn Vase is an ornate, Tiffany-designed solid sterling silver piece dating back to 1860. A 1983 insurance appraisal valued the vase, which stands 34 inches tall and weighs 29 pounds, at \$1 million. Today it is estimated to be worth \$4 million."

My trophies include a silver platter from Vernon Downs, a nice pewter carving set from Ontario, a big vase from Suffolk Downs, win pictures, some plaques and other items. Some of our members surly have dens full of trophies from racing and other sports or activities. Others have pictures of their kids, grandkids and pets.

During the Revolutionary War, on July 4, 1776 delegates from the thirteen American colonies signed the Declaration of Independence. Over the last two and a half centuries plus, brave men and women in the United States military have been awarded trophies—medals, for their selfless service in upholding our Constitution by promoting peace and keeping us safe.

To date about 1.8 million Purple Hearts have been awarded to those wounded or killed in battle. 3,400 Medals of Honor, the highest award for valor in action against an enemy



force, have been presented to individuals serving in the U.S. military. Many others have received the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism.

Then there was Jesus. Centuries before Jesus was born the prophet Isaiah told how God's servant would endure pain and suffering to bring peace to the world. Isaiah says how the Suffering Servant would be beaten, and killed because of our sins (Isaiah 53:4-6). "He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross" Paul says, applying this image to Jesus (Philippians 2:8). With the price of His torture, humiliation and death, Jesus reclaimed our salvation. The sacrifice of Jesus opened the gates of heaven for all of us who believe.

No one honored Jesus with a trophy or a medal. Yet the glory of heaven described in Revelation, chapters 21



and 22 sure outdoes my paltry trophies and even the Woodlawn Vase of the Preakness Society.

The sacrifice of the men and women who give their lives for our freedom is a gift like no other. These people are

Trophies Continued on page 2

Trophies continued from page 1

heroes. Our veterans who spend time in harm's way on our behalf are blessings to be recognized and blessed in return.

Of course, the biggest trophy will be awarded to each of us whose names are included on God's Stable Roster, the Lamb's Book of Life, when a rider on a white horse brings us through the pearly gates to the streets of gold leading to the throne of God (Revelation 19:11-16, 21:9-27).



*May the angels
lead you into paradise*
Memorials posted at www.chha.net

Memorial Contributions

- In memory of **Booty Beltrami** by: Elaine Beltrami
- In memory of **Charlie Day** by: Roland Day
- In memory of **Mark Fransen** by: Jim and Judy Ferguson
- In memory of **Sherie Hankins** by: Kim Hankins
- In memory of **Dean and Steve Beachy** by: Larry and Joan Martin and Yoder's Health Products, LLC
- In memory of **John D Wardman** by: Rev David Wardman
- In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Longshot Stables

Power in the Word

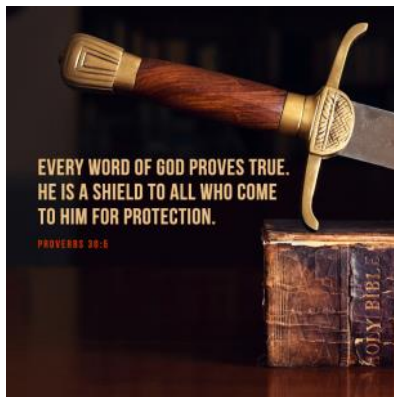
By Curt Cyrus

In today's world, it's a daily challenge just protecting yourself and your family from the barrage of immorality and wickedness that has seemed to infiltrate every aspect of our lives.

"For God hath not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7). As Christians, we share in the same trials and tribulations as others. We are not spared from tragedy. But, Christ said, "I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). "I have been given all authority over heaven and earth" (Matthew 28:18).

That power has been given to you. Through your faith and trust in the Lord, you will also overcome all things.

"If God be for us, who can be against us" (Romans 8:31)? Even in your darkest hour, Christ is with you, and is stronger than those things that trouble your heart. The heavens and earth tremble at the sound of his name and He is on your side. Peace and joy be with you.



COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS.
NAME THEM ONE BY ONE.
COUNT YOUR MANY BLESSINGS
SEE WHAT GOD HAS DONE.

From Marsh Townley...

God is Soooo Good, my surgery is May 25th, It looked like it would be in Middle of June. Praise the Lord!!!!!!! I look forward to seeing that no one get's out of my hospital room with out being asked if they know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Marsh

From Roger Huston...

Orthoscopic gall bladder surgery went well.

From Chaplain Ken Carter...

Noah is home and back to school. Praise God!

Kudos for Bruce Ranger...

Roger Smith has been a racing official in Maine for many decades. Roger recently shared with me his memory of how Bruce overcame his addictions and went on to be a nationally known harness driver. Bruce returned to Maine recently. Last year Roger was proud to help him obtain his license as an official. Roger says, "Bruce reminds me of Pat Day, a Thoroughbred jockey I knew many years ago who had serious addiction issues but found God and overcame them."

Lyndel Adamsky told me Bruce was a very faithful friend to Joe calling him often throughout his sickness. Lyndell said, "Bruce really blessed Joe."

Tina and Linton Quirrion

Roger Smith also sent me the picture below of Tina and Linton Quirrion. It was taken at the Farmington Fair where they were racing. Happily, Roger found it in time to mail it to them before Linton died. Tina told Roger receiving the picture meant a lot to him.



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Please pray for my intentions _____

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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

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 2

Ewell Elton Binkley, 83, of Henning, TN, died May 20. Ewell was a trainer and driver of Standardbreds. He was a member of Walnut Grove Baptist Church and the United States Trotting Association, and an Army National Guard veteran.

Bernard Francis Brennan, VMD, 97, of Hobe Sound, FL died April 26. Bernie began his veterinary practice in Aiken, SC. He moved to Westbury, NY in 1953 establishing an equine practice at Roosevelt Raceway where he was supervising veterinarian and opened a surgical hospital. Dr. Brennan was an active member of the American Association of Equine Practitioners since its founding in 1954 and served as its President in 1979. He was a long standing member of the Knights of Columbus.



Dr. C. E. 'Ted' Clarke, 71, of Elmira, Ontario, died April 27. He co-owned Eldale Veterinary Clinic and was a practicing veterinarian while being heavily involved with the management of Elmira Raceway. He helped steer the track from financial ruin while he served as the horseperson's representative with the Ontario Harness Horse Association (OHHA). He became the official general manager of Elmira Raceway in 1995, while still maintaining his veterinary practice and pioneered a number of initiatives, which solidified the track's finances and reputation. In 2002, Dr. Clarke left veterinary medicine to assume a full-time role as the general manager of the new Grand River Raceway in Elora, Ontario. The creation of the track was his passion project.



John P. "Harry" Cummings Sr, 73, died May 11. Harry began his 42 year racing career when he was 22 with a couple homebreds. He had the distinction of being the patriarch of one of the largest families of drivers in New York State. John Cummings Jr, Tony Cummings, Todd Cummings and Kevin Cummings were taught the ropes by their father and have all been training and driving since they were old enough to get their licenses. His wife, children and horses were his primary passion.



Kelvin V Gale died May 17. Kelvin and Eleanor worked side by side for many years on their farm in Helena milking cows and raising their children before they moved to Bombay where they farmed Standardbred horses. His passion was Racehorses. He enjoyed



watching the races and keeping track of all the sales and who bought what horse. Kelvin and Eleanor celebrated their 60th anniversary April 11th.

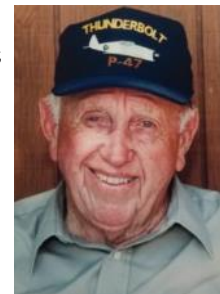
Diane L. Norris, 79, died April 25. Diane and her husband, Gordon, were active participants in harness racing in Michigan and at Pompano Park. She enjoyed grooming, training, naming the horses and keeping the stables running smoothly. The Gordon Norris Stables topped the training charts in Michigan and at Pompano Park for many years. She and her husband were inducted together into the Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association's Hall of Fame and the Florida Hall of Fame.



David K. Ritter, 73, died May 18. David was a second generation horseman who raced horses for more than 25 years at Ohio racetracks and fair circuits. He retired from racing in 1996, but stayed involved through his son, Mike Wilder. He loved the racing dearly and watched daily.



Thomas Jefferson Throgmorton, 95, of Marion, IL, May 22. Tom was a proud World War II pilot. Tom co-founded Central Technology Incorporated as a chemical engineer and was instrumental in the space race. He also designed and developed the original net trap cannons which launched nets over wildlife for safe capture. Later he founded Winn-Star, a defense contractor which continues to operate today under the guidance of Tom's grandson. Tom was instrumental in bringing mounted horseback fox hunting back to Southern Illinois. He was also a Standardbred horse owner for more than 30 years maintaining a stable of horses at the Williamson County Fairgrounds where he served on the fair board. He worked hard to keep the local fair and its racing program in operation.



Mike Weller, 60, of Milton, Ontario, died recently. Mike was an Ohio native and longtime southern Ontario-based Standardbred trainer. Mike and his wife, Sue Woodyatt, took a leave of absence from their positions in the industry to explore cancer treatment options outside of Canada.



Obituaries

Jerry Knappenberger, 76, of Newark, OH, died June 3. Jerry was a longtime general manager of the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association. He began his 50-year harness racing career as a second trainer for his high school classmate, Terry Holton. After a 25-year stint with the Holton stable, he was hired as the assistant general manager of the OHHA taking over the top spot in 1998. Jerry was elected into the OHHA's Hall of Fame in 2015. He worked tirelessly for the introduction of Video Lottery Terminals in the state of Ohio returning our industry in Ohio to its place of prominence with increased purses at the four commercial tracks and the 65 county fairs. CHHA and HHYF have been designated to receive gifts in lieu of flowers in memory of Jerry.

Ursula (Urs) Joan Ayd, 84, died May 1. Ursula was active in Maryland racing as a breeder, owner and advocate for harness racing. After her retirement from Western Electric-AT&T, she and her husband, Joe, were introduced to Standardbred racing by her son-in-law, Jim Ayd.



Jerry Knappenberger

Obituaries continued on page 4

Sources for Obituary information include:

www.harnessracing.com, www.ustrotting.com and 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, Amy Bondon, Jeanne Duso Boudot, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, 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, Valerie Prescott, 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, 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, Doc Parry, Louise Pelletier, Rita Polese, Noreen Paulen, Art Plant, Joanne Ranger, Donnie Richards, Ray Romanetti, Tori Scott, Delma Smart, Madisyn Smith, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Monica Thors, Marsh Townley, 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:

Amy Bondon is having radiation treatments following cancer surgery.

Annie Bordenkircher sprained her ankle.

Suzanne D'Ambrose has a meniscus tear in her knee.

Ray Romanetti has a hole in his heart like Sam McKee's.

Marsh Townley is recovering from back surgery.



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USA



Information at www.chha.net

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Visit us at the Hambletonian

The Voice The Unparalleled Life of Roger Huston By Victoria M Howard

Early in his career, Harness Racing Hall of Fame Announcer, Roger Huston, was told to tone it down. Thank God he didn't! Racing fans around the United States, Canada and even in Europe love his exciting manner of making every race sound like an invitational.

Roger’s booming voice has called more than 178,000 races at over 144 tracks in nineteen states and eight countries in the 60 years he spent announcing harness races. In his younger days, Roger traveled 300 miles a day between the Lexington Red Mile and his job at WHBM in Xenia, Ohio. He loves the fairs. He loves the Jug. He loves the Meadows and he loved Lexington, Pompano and everywhere else that invited him to the announcer’s box. Roger loves announcing races and he loves the people who are part of our sport.

Preparation for his life’s work began when he was four calling races with his toy horses. Read about his illustrious career in his newly released book, “The Voice: The Unparalleled Life of Roger Huston” written by his good friend and famous author, Victoria M. Howard.

Book Signings

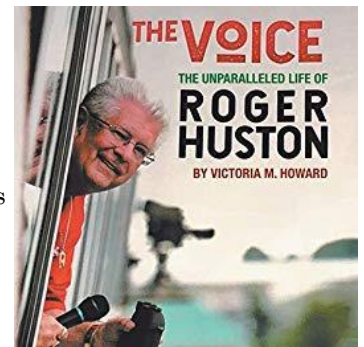
Roger will be delighted to sign your book at any of the following events as well as All other County and State Fairs where he will be announcing.

Goshen	July 7	10:00–Noon
The Meadows	July 26th	4:15–4:45pm
The Meadows	After the Adios 6:15-7:00 PM	6:15–7:00 PM
Darke County Fair Greenville, OH	August 22	
Delaware Fairgrounds Log Cabin	Jug Week Sep 14–19	Before and after the races

Relive some of our greatest races through Roger’s binoculars. Enjoy his memories about the golden age of racing as you peruse many original photos and stories of the great legends. Wonder with me why Tonto, aka Jay Silverheels, went to the Adios without Star and the Lone Ranger. Laugh as you read the PS stories and be glad Roger thought to include them. You may even come across your picture or your name. I did. Thanks Roger!

If you are ever at the Meadows on a Sunday, you will find Roger at Pastor Joe’s service in his regular seat in the Chapel. Roger is a great servant of the Lord. CHHA is blessed to have him on our Board of Directors.

As Roger says, “Be there!”
Buy it on Amazon. To bless CHHA, go to www.smile.amazon.com. Name Christian Harness Horsemen’s Association as your charity. Follow link below.



Amazon Smile is sending CHHA \$23.17 for January - March 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. If you have not already selected CHHA as your charity, go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-1056232>.

**Thanks for supporting CHHA
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