



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

August 2025

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



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*For newsletter questions or
ideas please contact:*

Lee Alphen, Editor

leealphen@comcast.net

603-898-1927

603-401-7271 (cell)

Winning the Race

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

The thrill! The prestige! Winning a big horse race is a huge adrenaline rush! We know winning begins with a well-conditioned, fast, sound horse. And, that it is critical for the driver to stay focused on the race, pace the horse appropriately and have a winning attitude.

Staying focused means thinking strategically about the race as it is playing out and not calculating gambling winnings while passing the tote board; picturing a huge, sizzling celebration steak; wondering why the track isn't up to par or smirking, thinking the driver beside us doesn't have a clue. Distractions may just put the winner's circle out of sight.

At the track our focus is on how to best manage a winning stable. We think about training schedules, feeding programs, shoeing, having the right people in our shedrow and hopefully not too much vet work. Selecting the right drivers for each horse is also a very important consideration.

How much time do we spend thinking about our lives, how we are living and where we are headed—besides with our horses.

Jesus said, "I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:20 NIV). How often do we acknowledge God's presence in our lives? Do we believe God is with us? Or was Jesus fibbing to His disciples? "Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him" (Hebrews 11:6 NIV).

There was much evil in Judah and the prophet Habakkuk, who constantly questioned God, didn't understand why God let it continue. God assured Habakkuk He had a plan. Finally, Habakkuk realized he needed to have faith and trust God to work everything out. He said to God;

"Lord, I have heard the news about you. I am amazed, Lord, at the powerful things you did in the past. Now I pray that you will do great things in our time. Please make these things happen in our own days. But in your anger, remember to show mercy to us" (Habakkuk 3:2 ERV).

When we do realize that God who created us knows us, loves us and wants what is best for us, it becomes easier to work with God and allow Him to direct our paths. God never intended His people to operate on their own. He has always

Winning continued on page 2



© Monica Thors

The apostle Paul writes about the race of life. "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7 NIV). In life we battle the forces of evil: temptation; lust for money, power, sex and other enticements of the world and the devil. However, we must remember that life is a "good fight" thanks to Jesus paying the price for all our sins. If we put our trust in Christ, we are guaranteed the trophy, the righteous crown (2 Timothy 4:8).

Wanted

Praise Reports and Articles

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen

leealphen@comcast.net

Or

157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

**"I have fought the good
fight, I have finished
the race, I have kept
the faith"**

2 Timothy 4:7 NIV

Winning continued from page 1

been with them and ready to help. God has a plan for us and for our world.

We sure don't want regrets, thinking about all the opportunities we've missed during our time on earth. Christians who keep their eyes focused on Jesus and the will of God as they wait for Christ's return needn't spend time wallowing in regrets of bad choices, thinking it is too late. Sure, we all make mistakes. No one is perfect. However, if we can say as Paul did, "I've kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7 NIV), our slates are wiped clean by the blood of Jesus. One day we will make the trip to the most important winner's circle and receive the righteous crown, the gift of eternal life with God in heaven.

Newsletter Articles Needed

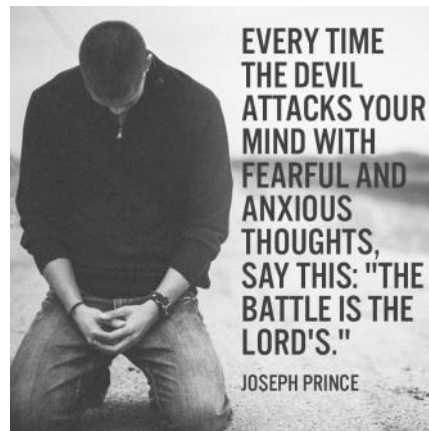
Please send Praise reports, Articles, testimonies, etc. for the newsletter. Submissions can be a few words up to 300 words.

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen
leealphen@comcast.net
Or 157 North Main St · Salem, NH 03079

Blessings from God

From Greg Gehman...

Owen (Greg's grandson) is doing very well. Other than not having much intestine, he is perfect! The doctor said it is not uncommon for the small intestine to add some length over time. He has had cases where it has grown enough to eliminate the colostomy and you lead a normal life. So, that will be the focus of our family prayers...for his intestines to grow!!



Psalm 23

A Psalm of David

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want;
he makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.



Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I fear no evil; for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
thou anointest my head with oil,
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
for ever.

Thoughts on the psalm

Notice David says, "The Lord is 'My' shepherd. David had a personal relationship with God. That's what God wants for each of us. By talking with God and reading our Bibles to learn more about Him, we too can grow in relationship with the Lord. Then, like David, we can enjoy all the benefits the 23rd Psalm talks about.

Spending time in a big green pasture filled with alfalfa or clover and a cool source of fresh water is like embarking on a relaxing vacation for our horses. The psalmist paints a picture of a place where we would always be safe and have everything we need.

Growing in relationship with the Lord helps to refresh and strengthen us by leading us down the right path. "The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul" (Psalms 19:7 RSV).

Unfortunately, there is much evil in our world. It is more than likely that, at some point, evil will try to become between us and God. Remember, Satan, the fallen angel, the author of lies, is the one responsible for all that goes wrong. The devil wants to put a wedge between us and God.

However, the Lord said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5 NIV). No matter how great the evil is, even if death comes knocking at the door, there is absolutely no need for those who trust in the Lord to be afraid.

Yes, we will encounter struggles and problems in life. As we all know, wars, violence, sickness and hunger abound. Since we live in a fallen world, death and destruction are part of it. But, as David points out, we can choose to focus on God's goodness and mercy instead and enjoy God's peace.

One day the good Lord will call us home. When that time comes, let's be ready to dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

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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) ☐

Horseshoe Nail Cross necklaces and key rings—see below

CHHA Hat ☐

Books

God Wants You Well by Andrew Wommack ☐ **New***Daily Oats* by Chaplain Sam Ed Spence ☐*Still: A Story of the Black Doctor of the Jersey Pines* by Edmund R Gager ☐*Sound Mouth—Sound Horse, The Gager Method of Equine Dental Care*
by ER Gager and Bob “Dusty” Rhodes ☐*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 ☐**Jack Levine's books are also available FREE as downloads at:**<https://www.jackalanlevine.com/ebooks>*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

Name: _____ Phone: _____

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

Roger Huston · 154 Vista Drive · Cannonsburg, PA 15317

Necklace Qty: Red ____ Blue ____ Turquoise ____ Fuchsia ____ Green ____

Keyring Qty: Red ____ Blue ____ Other cross color _____

Horseshoe Nail Item Order Form
Orders can also be placed at
www.chha.net/products

Obituaries continued from page 5

David A. Brumbaugh, 77, of Arcanum, OH, died Jun 18. David spent over five decades as a trainer, driver and owner of Standardbreds. His guidance helped many aspiring horsemen learn the intricacies of training and driving. His son, Greg, and his grandson, Tyler, can attest to that.



Dennis Owen Dowd, 77, of Orange, NJ, died Jun 23. Dennis' family has been involved in Thoroughbred horse racing for generations. He was Chairman of the New Jersey Racing Commission and later became President of Freehold Raceway. He went on to become Director of Racing for the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority and then Senior VP of Legal and Government Affairs overseeing Monmouth Park, Meadowlands Racetrack and Giant Stadium.



Dr John Gary Gibson, 93, of Jackson, MI, died Jun 3. John was a harness horse trainer, driver, and veterinarian who focused on treating racing injuries. He traveled the country training and driving Standardbred horses. His veterinary practice was nationally recognized for his expertise in lameness and leg injuries. In the rough-and-tumble world of harness racing, he stood out for his honesty and kindness: he didn't curse, smoke, or drink, and he fought against cheating and doping in the racing industry. He was a tireless champion for the humane treatment of racehorses. He was inducted into the Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association Hall of Fame.



George Hensley Jr, 73, of Livonia, MI, died May 27. George owned, trained, drove and bred Standardbreds. He devoted over thirty years to Dunn Rite Land Service. He took great pride in caring for his parents, George and Ann Hensley, during their time of declining health.

Steven Ray Hoskinson, 69, of Heath, OH, died Apr 6. Steve, a Christian who loved the Lord, was involved with harness racing his whole life. He was a trainer and driver and even bred a few. He attended Heath Church of Christ. He was a heavy equipment operator by trade his entire life. Steve and his wife, Leslie, are CHHA members.



Harry Malcolm "Mac" Lilley died Jun 7. In the 1970's Mac developed an interest in harness racing. He purchased his first stallion, ZIP TAR, and began the family farm. Over the next 50 years his farm was home to over 47 stallions. Mac had a passion for growing the breeding industry in Ontario. He also raced his own small stable in Canada and USA.

John Allan Martin, 73, died May 19. John began racing at 14. He owned trained and drove Standardbreds. When most who were blessed to be part of his life reminisce about him, they are sure to remember his love of family, his Indian reservation, harness racing, and his loyalty to the Buffalo Bills, Sabres and Bandits.

Rick Merryman, 55, of Freelon, Ontario, died Jun 23. Rick dedicated much of his life to his work as a groom. Among his favorite horses were Blue Buckaroo, Alastor Hanover, and Whosurboy.

Stephen Charles Moore, 73, of Washington CH, OH, died Jun 6. Steve was a lifelong Standardbred trainer and driver. He had worked for a time at Armco Steel and Steelex but had more recently worked as a truck driver for Hogan Trucking.



Jackie "Jack" L. Myers, 86, of Bristol, IN, died Jun 9. Jack raced a big stable for over 40 years. He raced in his home state as well as Michigan, Ohio, and Illinois. His favorite races took place at the fairgrounds.

Professionally, he served as president of Advanced Affiliates, Inc. in Goshen for over 25 years, later stepping into a director role.

William D. Myers, 87, of Goshen, IN, died May 24. William owned and trained harness horses. He was an officer for Dayton and Beavercreek, Ohio police departments. Later he became a Management Consultant for manufacturers for over 25 years. He was a member of Faith United Methodist Church in Goshen.



Freddie Lee Patton, Sr, 84, of Clinton, MS, died Jun 29. Freddie was a long-time horseman from Mississippi who owned, trained and drove Standardbred horses.



Linda Sorenson, 70, died Jun 14. Linda worked 50 years in the harness racing industry in several states, including Michigan, Florida, Kentucky, Alabama, Indiana and New York. Her hard work shone through as she had many successes during racing seasons. She was a huge advocate for Standardbred horses, even finding forever homes as they retired.



Gene Vallandingham, 84, of Sacramento, CA, died Jun 7. Gene was an owner, trainer, driver and breeder of harness horses. Gene and his brother Bill were elected into the California Harness Racing Hall of Fame in 2014. He grew up in the harness racing business in Kentucky before going to Illinois where he won driving titles at Washington Park and Aurora Downs.



Sources for Obituary information include:

www.ustrotting.com, www.standardbredcanada.ca and www.harnesslink.com

Obituaries

Edward Robert "Bob" Cain, Sr., of Ridgeway, SC, formerly of Delaware, OH, died Apr 24. He was an avid fan of Standardbred Harness Racing and was involved as a licensed trainer, driver, breeder and owner. His favorite horse was Barnacle, a horse he bred, foaled, raised, raced, and retired. He was the founder and President of TDI, a horse feed company (previously known as Tizwhiz Distributors). Bob and his wife, Beth, were active CHHA members. In fact, Beth was on the Board of Directors when Chaplain Lee Alphen was named as the new CHHA Executive Director and was a tremendous help to Lee.



Barbara K. Huston, 79, of Canonsburg, PA, died Jun 2. She was a proud horse owner and harness racing enthusiast. She carried herself with style and grace wherever she went. Barbie was an avid sports fan who loved betting on football and rarely missed a game. She will be remembered and dearly missed for her beauty, relentless advice, and quick-witted humor. Barb's husband of 43 years,



CHHA member of the Board of Directors, Roger Huston, the Voice, is well known throughout the country and around the world as an announcer.

Tommy Long, 81, of Marston Mills, MA, died Jun 4. Tommy was a longtime New England horseman. He and his wife of 56 years, Diane, spent 40 years racing their stable of harness horses up and down the East Coast. Tommy also drove the starting gate at Pompano for many years and received many compliments while schooling the babies. Themed with country music, the Longs loved putting on shows with their miniature horses and were very much in demand for many years. Sunny was their main star, especially after having performed on the NBC Today Show and America's Got Talent. They made television appearances in Miami, Florida and at Rockingham Park in NH. Sunny also had a contract to perform at Canobie Lake Amusement Park for two seasons. They also performed at nursing homes, birthday parties and in the summer, on Main Street in Hyannis, Massachusetts. Tommy and Diane are CHHA members.

Obituaries continued on page 4

Prayer Corner

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

Lynn Antonelli, Lew Arsenault, Emily Bier, Debbie Boardman, Amy Bondon, David Bower, Bob Briley, Georgianna Brocco, Jana Gary Bryant, Lore Burke, Glenn Byrd, Rick Carson, Barbara Carter, Mike Carter, Sam Castimore, Candice Coleman, Loren Combs, Joe Crothers, Danny Daniel, Mike Deeters, Ashley Dennon-Coen, Declan Donaway, Scott Dube, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Francine Federici, Tim Finley, Tiffany Fisher, Katie Folkins, Ron Fraker, Sarah Gehman, Teresa Hubbard Givens, Holly Graffam, Pastor Bill Grant, Cody Greeno, Margaret Groce, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Glenda Holloway, Audrey Henry, Layla Hundertpfund, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, Bob Jones, Jennifer Jugg, AJ Keaton, Julie Kerr, Donnie Knight, David Kovach, Betsy Krantz, Rox Liles, Anabelle Lisi, Kevin Mack, Ricky Macomber, Nelson Malin, Kim Maples, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Nelson Miller, Frank Mirahmadi, Paul Molnar, Bob Montane, Lalya Mosley, Corey Murphy, JC Napier, Howard Nields, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Carol Parker, Margie Polhamus, Valerie Prescott, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Ray Romanetti, Emily Roper, Daren Richner, Del Smart, Larry Smith, Cheri Stambaugh, Doug Stringer, Jimmy Takter, Bobbi Tanner, Ellen Taylor, Jack Taylor, Brenda Tippin, Gary Tyron, Brittanty Vondenhuevel, Roland Wardel, Teresa Willabus, Kate Williams, Steve Wiseman, Marty Woebkenberg, Alan Wroblewski, Allan Wright and Joyce Zeasapolowski.

These friends are also in need of our ongoing prayers:

Dennis Albert, Jason Apperti, Jordan Aracena, Ken Bartels, Ellen Beinhauer, Gary Bennett, John Berry, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Stephanie Bouchard, Danny Breton, Lillie Brown, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Bob Cain, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Robin Cino, Anthony Coletta, Chet Crane, Karen Crothers,

Brenda Jo Dennon, Richard Dunmire, Anna Farley, Scott Freck, Sylvain Gagnon, Greg Gehman, Richie Gillock, Bob Goth, Barbara and Brent Graham, Debbie Gray, Bob Jones, Janice Hankins, Jimmy Hart, Joyce Hart, Rich Heffington, Bob Hilliard, Vickie Howard, Ruby Hensley, Miguel Hernandez, Paul and Mrs Hershey, Carol Heusinkveld, Trudy Hite, Jerry Hissam, Joyce Hollingsworth, John Hostler, Jason Hughes, Jesse Hughes, Don James, Kenny Kane, Dave Kelly, Michael Klark, Victor Kiss, Larry Lawter, Ray Levay, Sam Lilli, Art Lisi, Jr, Lowell Lockhart, Katherine Lonager, Diane Long, Ernie Lowell, Sharon Lowell, Tommy Luchento, Faye Mackey, Terry Mahar, Joanne Maiorca, Pedro Martinez, Jr, Cheryl Mauran, Dean Miller, Peg Miller, Raymond Miller, Nancy Miner, John Morris, Mike Murphy, Doug Nash, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Waverly Parsons, Susan Parks, Doc Parry, Donna Phillips, Rita Polese, Noreen Paulen, Frank Profaci, Del Richards, Donnie Richards, Denis Rogers, Tori Scott, Jody Sexton, Lynn Silver, Delma Smart, Rev Edward Smith, Madisyn Smith, Ryan Stahl, Caryn Stellino, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Dick Terien, Al Terwilliger, Marsh Townley, Lorraine Truitt, Charlotte Truitt, Phillip Truitt, Mel Turcott, Vincenzo Villante, Justin Vance, Barry Vicroy, Steve Warner, Gregg Welch, Jr, Charles Weiss, Alice Williams, Pat Wilson, 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, Chris Petrullo, Sgt David Thomas, Elizabeth Welch and Nigel Willabus.

Special Intentions for this month:

Harold Coder has a broken hip and hoof prints on his back from being run over by his horse.

Tommy Dawson is recovering from surgery.

Ron Peltz has many health issues and may have to move to a care facility.

Paul Russel is recovering from major surgery.

157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA



Please indicate
Address corrections



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

Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Joe Adamsky** by: Lyndel Adamsky
In memory of **Bob Cain** by: Elizabeth Cain
In memory of **Lois Combs** by: Loren and Paul Combs
In memory of **Bob and Vivian Farrington** by: Karen and Joe Ewing
In memory of **Daryl Gager** by: Ed Gager
In memory of **Mrs. Irene Gill** by: Pastor Stan and Susan Gill
In memory of **George Hansley, Jr** by: Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association
In memory of **Steve Hoskinson** by: Leslie Hoskinson, Jim and Linda Hoskinson, The Holderby Family, Nancy and Robert Kissner, Jeanie Lusk, Joyce McCreary, Kay Mills and family, Don and Bit Predmore, Cindy Wagner, Dr & Mrs James Willis, Sr., American Baptist Churches of Ohio
In memory of **Barbara Huston** by: Amy Bondon
In memory of **Colleen MacDonald** by: Ken Fierle
In memory of **Thomas E Shinn** by: Sam and Ellen Lilly
In memory of **Weldon Stockwell** by: Jack Levine, Voice of God Ministries
In memory of **Walter and Pauline Warrington** by: Steve Warrington
In memory of **Betsy Wood** by: Longshot Stables

HELP! HELP! HELP!

Funds are low. Please consider making a donation to CHHA so we can continue our work to **Keep Christ Alive in Harness Racing!**

My Father's Face

From Todd DuBois...

I was 14 years old lying in the back of my father's pickup. I saw his face in the clouds.

It startled me.

Not my father's but the Lord's, Jesus Christ.

Later that day I met an old man. He handed me a card. He asked if I had known the Lord? I was shy, and I didn't answer.

I took the card, and I walked away.

I got older. I stayed in the woods a lot.

I found my way back to the path I'm trying to walk it. It's narrow and it gives way under your feet if you let it.

It does get wider and gives away less when you accept him...the old man's card was right. It read, "If you meet me and forget me you've lost nothing. If you meet him and forget him you've lost everything."

Amen 🙏 Praise the Lord!



Jug Week

Seeing many CHHA members and making new friends Jug Week at the Delaware County Fairgrounds is a highlight of the year.

Please stop by for a visit or a prayer. We will be in the OHHA tent across from the Paddock entrance.

We will not be hosting a Prayer Breakfast this year. Like many people, we have to tighten our purse strings.

