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OCTOBER 28TH, 2026

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WALTER HAIGHT AWARD

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Typifying The Spirit Of Racing



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MARY RAMPELLINI WALTER HAIGHT AWARD

Career Excellence In Turf Writing



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STABLE RECOVERY BILL MOONEY AWARD

Courage in the Face of
Tremendous Adversity

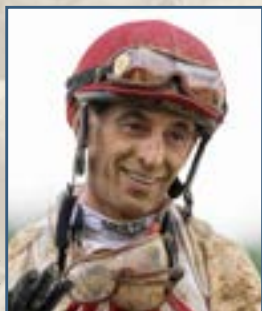


Photo by Skip Duckstein

JOHN VELAZQUEZ JOE PALMER AWARD

Meritorious Service To Racing



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TEAM TVG/FANDUEL JIM McKAY AWARD

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A low-angle photograph of the Churchill Downs building, showing its iconic white facade with green accents and a tall, grey, conical roof. The building is set against a clear blue sky.

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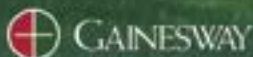
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GREETINGS FROM NTWAB

BYRON KING, PRESIDENT

Welcome back to the Bluegrass State and to Keeneland, which again prepares to host the Breeders' Cup World Championships Oct. 30-31. This year marks the fourth time the two-day event will be held at this historic Central Kentucky racetrack, and the National Turf Writers and Broadcasters are excited to gather tonight at Malone's Prime for our 66th Annual Awards Dinner.

Before turning our attention to this evening's honorees, I'd like to express my appreciation to our membership. This has been a difficult year for equine journalism, with job cuts on both the print and broadcast sides. As someone who lost my job in a similar reduction in 2019, I would simply say to those affected: Keep grinding.

These cutbacks do not reflect your work or your value as journalists. Your colleagues recognize and appreciate what you do. As an organization, the NTWAB stands ready to support you and our profession any way we can.

Speaking of the NTWAB, I would like to thank our board members who generously give their time and talents to the organization. That includes my fellow officers—Nathan Campbell, Dick Downey, and Jennifer Kelly—as well as board members Vance Hanson, Nicole Russo, Scott Hazelton, Steve Byk, Sara Gordon, and Carlos Morales. Thank you all for your service.

Tonight's dinner and program also would not be possible without the hard work of Tom Law, Graham Allen, Loren Hebel-Osborne, Dick Downey, and Steve Byk, along with those who contributed stories on our honorees.

Lastly, a special thank you to our sponsors. Take a look through tonight's program, and you'll see a who's who of the Thoroughbred industry. Their support makes this evening—and the NTWAB's work throughout the year—possible.

Tonight celebrates our profession and our industry, but it also serves an important purpose for the NTWAB. The dinner is our organization's sole fundraiser, with proceeds supporting Thoroughbred industry charities and internships designed to cultivate the next generation of racing journalists. Our internship program continued to flourish this year.

As for this evening's honorees, they are a remarkable group.

Team Golden Tempo receives the Mr. Fitz Award for typifying the spirit of racing. The award recognizes the people behind the Phipps Stable and St. Elias Stable homebred who captured both the Kentucky Derby and Belmont Stakes this year. Their horse and their story brought much-needed attention and positive publicity to our sport.

John Velazquez, one of racing's most accomplished jockeys, receives the Joe Palmer Award. A Hall of Famer with more than 6,800 victories, six wins in legs of the Triple Crown, and 22 Breeders' Cup victories, Velazquez has also devoted years to supporting fellow jockeys and the backstretch community.

The late Mary Rampellini receives the Walter Haight Award for career excellence in turf writing. A longtime Daily Racing Form reporter and handicapper, Mary earned the respect of colleagues and readers through her thorough reporting, professionalism, passion for racing, and kindness.

The Jim McKay Award for excellence in broadcasting goes to Team TVG/FanDuel Racing, recognizing the many people who helped bring live racing, news, analysis, and wagering coverage to audiences nationwide for more than two decades.

Finally, the Bill Mooney Award honors the graduates of Stable Recovery, recognizing their courage and perseverance in overcoming substance abuse while building new lives and careers within the Thoroughbred industry.

It is our privilege to celebrate these individuals tonight. Thank you for being here and for supporting the NTWAB and its mission.



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Gwen Davis photo

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Mr. Fitz Award

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John Velazquez
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REMEMBERING 'MR. FITZ'

Over a century ago - in 1885 to be exact - a smiling, handsome young lad named James E. Fitzsimmons took himself to the old track at Sheepshead Bay and launched a 78-year career which may never be surpassed in the annals of U.S. training achievement. The record, of course, will show that the man, whose problems with weight ultimately steered his career from that of a jockey to one as a trainer, saddled 148 stakes winners among his 2,266 winning races (and, incidentally, winning purses of some \$13,001,500). But what no record could show is the personal record of this great and lovable humanitarian.

His refreshing good nature and even disposition soon earned him the nickname of "Sunny Jim" and, in his later years, "Mr. Fitz," as he became known by every American race-goer, was the seat of wisdom to whom all horsemen, fans and racing journalists turned for advice or a friendly word of encouragement.

Mr. Fitz, although he trained for many owners during his long career, was most closely associated with the Woodward and Phipps families. And although his stakes winners were many, including such names as Captain Alcock, Flambino, Diavolo (one of his favorites), Faireno, Dark Secret, Granville, Johnson, Seabiscuit, Vagrancy, Busanda and Hitting Away, he will probably best be remembered for his successes in the classic races. He won two Triple Crowns, with Gallant Fox and Omaha, a Preakness with the fabulous Bold Ruler (sire of Secretariat), and both a Preakness and Belmont with the great Nashua.

One of the many high points of Mr. Fitz's celebrated career came in the summer of 1955 when a match race was arranged between Kentucky Derby winner Swaps and Nashua. After training the latter for over a month on the deep, tiring Saratoga track (while Swaps was working on Chicago's faster Washington Park strip), Mr. Fitz and Eddie Arcaro journeyed west. Their confidence seemed unrealistic to the Swaps rooters who flocked to Chicago to watch the California-bred colt repeat his Derby victory. This hardly bothered Mr. Fitz, who noted calmly, "Training in Saratoga makes a horse fit. In a match race the object is to run from the gate, and the fittest horse wins." Nashua beat Swaps by more than six lengths.

Hardly more than a furlong away from Saratoga's National Museum of Racing, Mr. Fitz would hold daily court in the Saratoga track paddock. He sat, each August afternoon, on the same bench under the same elms and no one needed an appointment to sign up for a bit of learning. "Son," he would say to anyone within earshot, "the owners of race horses are the greatest people on earth. They pay the bills with little chance of making any money."

— Whitney Tower

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF
TONIGHT'S HONOREES

TEAM GOLDEN TEMPO
Mr. Fitz Award



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Photo by Anne Eberhardt Koepf

TEAM GOLDEN TEMPO WINNER OF THE 'MR. FITZ' AWARD

Typifying The Spirit Of Racing

By J.N. Campbell

There is something truly unique about a dirt horse who waits until the sight of the wire to come from the clouds, but what's even more gratifying is to watch a Thoroughbred racing team represent everything that is good in this sport. For that reason—and many others—Team Golden Tempo typified the spirit of racing and is this year's recipient of the National Turf Writers and Broadcasters' Mr. Fitz Award.

With defining wins in this year's Kentucky Derby and Belmont Stakes, Golden Tempo became one of the most talked about 3-year-olds of 2026. Proudly associated with dual classic winning colt by the influential sire Curlin are owners/breeders Phipps Stable—headed by Daisy Phipps Pulito and Ogden Phipps II—and Vinnie and Teresa Viola's St. Elias Stable, with contributions from Monique Delk. The homebred is out of Phipps mare Carrumba, who was a graded stakes winner and Grade 1-placed during her racing career.

"This is everything to anybody in horse racing, really," Daisy Phipps Pulito said after the Derby win. "This is what we breed to race. This is why you do it, to be on stages like this. And the way he ran and the way he was raised at Claiborne Farm."

The team behind the colt includes trainer Cherie DeVaux, whose historic victories made her the first woman to win the Kentucky Derby and the first female trainer to capture two American classic races.

DeVaux managed Golden Tempo's training closely, and the homebred never finished out of the top three in seven career starts heading into this year's Breeders' Cup World Championships.

The native New Yorker watched as her charge won on debut at Fair Grounds last December. As a newly minted 3-year-old, Golden Tempo took the Grade 3 Lecomte Stakes in January in New Orleans and was third in the Grade 2 Fasig-Tipton Risen Star Stakes over the same surface a month later. In late March, Golden Tempo was third in the Grade 2 Twinspires.com Louisiana Derby before heading back to Kentucky to prep for the Run for the Roses.



Photo by Sam Decker

Trainer Cherie DeVaux (right), atop a pony, escorts Golden Tempo after morning training at Saratoga Race Course

At Churchill Downs, the video of an ecstatic DeVaux as she cheered on Golden Tempo winning the Derby speaks volumes.

All of the long days and hard work paid off.

"Being a woman or my gender has never really crossed my mind in this journey of mine," DeVaux said. "I have to say, the racetrack is a tough place. It's a tough place if you are a man. It's a tough place if you're a woman.

"The thing that really has become apparent to me is that not everyone has the same constitution as I have mentally. It really is an honor to be able to be that person for other women or other little girls to look up to. You can dream big, and you can pivot. You can come from one place and make yourself a part of history."



Photo by: SkyDeckstein

Jockey Jose Ortiz celebrates a victory from Golden Tempo in the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs

DeVaux added, **"I started my career here 22 years ago as a bright-eyed, bushy-tailed exercise rider. And I would not believe that I would be sitting up here today. Never in my life did I think I would. And (late trainer) Chuck (Simon), he would be so proud. I am here because of him."**

Golden Tempo's next race came in the Belmont Stakes and the late runner did not disappoint his backers. Once again, the day was his for the taking.

"It's been a hot minute since we won the Belmont Stakes, (nearly) 40 years, but what my great grandmother, grandfather and father built, Ogden and I, and the Violas, got the rewards from," Daisy Phipps Pulito said. "He's a phenomenal horse. He's got a fantastic pedigree. Obviously, there were doubters after the Derby, like Cherie said, we were very confident with the kind of horse we had going into the Derby and going into the Belmont. I'm glad everyone else got to see that today, too."

After the Derby, DeVaux told the TDN Writers' Room Podcast that she always wanted to put the horse first and that it was important to build a support staff who would be devoted to the same mission.

Alongside her, assistant trainer and exercise rider Enrique Miranda developed an intimate understanding of Golden Tempo through countless morning workouts according to an article in the Paulick Report by former NTWAB President and Walter Haight Award winner Tom Pedulla.

Miranda told Pedulla that he fought substance abuse, and that it was John Sadler and eventually DeVaux who gave him a chance to continue to work around horses. Golden Tempo was a mount that he was on each morning since January.

"He does everything right," Miranda said of Golden Tempo in the article. "He looks back as if to ask, 'What do you want me to do?' I never really connected with a horse like that."

Groom José Hernández exemplified professionalism on a daily basis and was also integral to Golden Tempo's rise to fame.

On race day, jockey Jose Ortiz completed the circle by trusting Golden Tempo's closing ability, which is what delivered a pair of unforgettable performances at Churchill Downs and Saratoga Race Course.

"We always knew this horse had a lot of ability," said Ortiz, who has had maybe his strongest year in the saddle. "I knew always Golden Tempo would be my Derby mount. This is an incredible experience."

Team Golden Tempo has made an impression inside the industry, but they also made their mark in the mainstream media. The spirit they have carried during 2026 earned them the Mr. Fitz Award.

As DeVaux told Walter Haight Award-winning Turf writer Tim Wilkin of TDN at Saratoga, "He is a horse that we very much had to see the future in and come up with a plan. I am grateful for all horses but when you come up with a plan and say 'here is the plan: the goal is the Derby and here is how we are going to do it.' And it actually works out ... it's crazy that it actually happens."



Photo by Anne Blumstein Kropf

Winner's Circle - (L-R): Co-owners Teresa Viola, Vinnie Viola, Ogden Phipps II, and Daisy Phipps Pulito hold the Kentucky Derby trophy in the winner's circle at Churchill Downs

The National Thoroughbred Racing Association
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While Kentucky's five racetracks accounted for just 6.8% of the total races in the United States in 2025, they accounted for **19.6%** of the total purses paid and **17%** of total wagering. And of the **405** graded stakes in the U.S. that attracted the highest caliber of horses, **93**—a staggering **23%**—took place in Kentucky.

The historic 90th anniversary Fall Meet at Keeneland Oct. 2-24 will feature **22 stakes races** worth a total of **\$10.7 million**, including **8 Breeders' Cup "Win and You're In"** races for the Breeders' Cup, which will be held at Keeneland Oct. 30-31.



BREED THEM, RAISE THEM,
RACE THEM. WE ALL WIN.





REMEMBERING WALTER HAIGHT

Walter Haight died in October of 1968 at the age of 69. He was a racing columnist for the Washington Post.

The facts concerning Walter's career are not hard to uncover. During his 45 years on the Post, he rose to a position of great influence as a writer and public speaker.

But, it is not alone the accomplishment of Walter's life that set him apart from other press box sports reporters.

His chief contribution to the world was his personality. A friendly, oversized bear of a man, Walter made humor his life's theme. He would rather have told a joke which brought laughter than bet on a winner. And he loved to bet winners, too.

It is conceivable — but only barely so — that somewhere in the world there was someone who didn't enjoy and appreciate Walter Haight. But that man, whoever he is, didn't work in the press boxes of America's race tracks. When Walter was on hand, the day was certain to begin with a friend at the next typewriter.

Not among Walter's survivors was his creation, Molly Mutuel, a woman horse player. She died when Walter wrote his final column. Although Molly was an imaginary character, everyone who read Walter's column knew her well. She was talkative, superstitious, dowdy, gregarious and thoroughly likable. Her principal passion was betting on horses.

Molly was a sucker for a tip. She was also a grandstand habitué who viewed the Turf Clubbers with outspoken derision. Hers was the real world. The world of short bankrolls and the hunch bet which got her even.

Because Walter couldn't bother himself with memorizing the names of his male friends, he called everyone "Bub." It was only natural that his friends responded by calling him "Bub."

On the morning of a big race, reporters would leave Bub alone. He would hunch his wide frame and several chins up tight against his typewriter, pecking out words that he more frequently than not discarded.

He would be striving to write the funniest lead ever carried in a newspaper. He would write it hours before the race was run, knowing all the time that if the horse he had selected failed to win, all his pre-race writing would be wasted. But Walter frequently chose the right horses — especially when the favorite was 1-to-2 or 2-to-5.

One would wish that Molly were alive to comment on this Walter Haight Award. She would probably have something pithy to say about the time she bet her last \$2 on a sixth-place finisher touted by Walter.

— Snowden Carter



**Daily Racing Form proudly supports
the National Turf Writers And
Broadcasters and celebrates the
achievements of this year's
award winners, including our own
much-beloved and missed
Mary Rampellini**





Photo by: DRF Photo

MARY RAMPPELLINI WINNER OF THE WALTER HAIGHT AWARD

Career Excellence In Turf Writing

By Nicole Russo

"The story of the horse who 70 years ago this month became racing's seventh Triple Crown winner can be relived vibrantly at King Ranch headquarters," Mary Rampellini wrote from Kingsville, Texas, about 120 miles from the Mexican border, in June 2016.

"The barn that housed him remains in use. The timing stand where trainer Max Hirsch would watch him being prepared for the track is intact. And the pasture from which he greeted visitors after reaching household-name status ... pops off a path leading to the latest generation of horses at King Ranch."

Rampellini showed her brother, Ralph, the detail-rich and evocative piece she wrote for Daily Racing Form about the massive King Ranch, seamlessly weaving through the history of a generational operation dating to 1853, describing the "sprawling landscape, dotted with cactus, palm trees, deer, historic structures, and 80 houses in a neighborhood for staff," and describing how it was once "pretty wild country" and known as the "Wild Horse Desert" before giving rise to a Triple Crown winner.

"Mary, put that up for an Eclipse Award, you can win," Ralph told Mary.

She politely declined, not wanting to take away from others.

Mary would likely respond with her typical humility, were she here to be presented with the Walter Haight Award for career excellence in Turf writing, voted upon by her peers of the National Turf Writers and Broadcasters. Rampellini is being posthumously honored after her death at age 53 July 4 in Grapevine, Texas. The tributes that poured in were not just from her family and her colleagues—including those from a nearly quarter-century stretch at the Daily Racing Form, where she covered tracks through the Midwest and South with a reputation for her work ethic, fairness and kindness. Tributes from the racetracks she covered and Hall of Fame trainers showed the respect she earned, and tributes from those in her faith community and those she had touched via a children's book series showed her reach.



Photo by: Patricia Rampellini

A young Mary aboard 'Tex' on her family's property in New Hampshire

Mary grew up immersed in racing, as her late father Ralph F. Rampellini managed the stables of Nelson Bunker Hunt and John Franks. Mary worked as her father's broodmare manager, an assistant trainer, a hotwalker, and assisted with veterinary work, among other roles, giving her a respect for the Thoroughbred and the work of the people she would spotlight as she developed her other passion—storytelling.

Mary's family recalled her constantly having a rumpled newspaper or pen and paper in hand as a child. She wrote for her high school newspaper, and at just 19, she started her own paper, the Tri-City Herald, in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. She also began working for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram at 19.

Before later moving to full-time status, Mary was hired as a freelancer by DRF to cover the opening of Lone Star Park in 1997. Texas-born Hall of Famer Steve Asmussen met her then.



Photo by Patricia Rumpelini

Mary holds her newborn sister Christina with siblings Anna and Ralph alongside

"She was so knowledgeable about horses, and that had a lot to do with her father and who he was," Asmussen said in her obituary this July. "She understood barns, she understood what it felt like to win, she understood what it was like to lose. She was just such an unbelievably kind soul."

Along with Lone Star, the track Mary was most closely associated with was Oaklawn Park, where she covered the exploits of, chronologically, Hall of Famers Smarty Jones, who marched through the track's prep series en route to the 2004 Kentucky Derby and Preakness; champion Zenyatta, who won two editions of the Apple Blossom Handicap; and American Pharoah, who won the Rebel and Arkansas Derby before becoming the 2015 Triple Crown winner.

"It is a privilege and an honor to be able to cover horses like that," Mary said on racecaller Jason Beem's podcast in 2016. "Those are the horses that everyone wants to see, everyone wants to know what's going on with them, and that, of course, makes my job interesting. Those are the kind of horses anybody in the industry gets up for every morning, because you never know what's going to happen with a horse like that. It can change your life in a moment, as an owner, trainer or jockey, that kind of horse. It is very exciting and very much a privilege."

Mary tackled other races with just as much care as those she put into the ones contested by superstars—never treating a horse or a barn as a small fish, because she knew how much work it took to get a horse in the starting gate anytime, anywhere. She also developed relationships that helped her tell outstanding stories. In the past year, she highlighted shared success for trainer Todd Jordan and his daughter, jockey Kylee Jordan, at Prairie Meadows. In June, she told how trainers Justin Evans and Dick "Flaco" Cappellucci would spend Father's Day together after the races at Lone Star, as the two sons of trainers met at Sunland Park in New Mexico and are longtime friends as well as rivals, with Cappellucci the godfather to Evans's children.

“She treated everyone with respect and dignity,” brother Ralph wrote in his remembrance following his sister’s death. “And she tried to present everyone in their best light. That’s not easy to do in the world she worked in.”

Mary also took great pride in writing a series of educational children’s books, set at Oaklawn. Prior to publication, she discussed the stories in great detail with the young daughters of DRF Editor-in-Chief Jody Swavy to get the plot and storytelling of the books exactly right for the new generation of racing fans. “Ollie the Oaklawn Owl: Whoooo’s That Horse?” was released in 2023. Two other titles followed: “Whoooo’s that Jockey?” and “Whoooo’s That Trainer?” The series was endorsed by no less an authority than Hall of Fame trainer D. Wayne Lukas.

“Here is a wonderful opportunity to introduce to the next generation the wonderful world of horse racing,” Lukas said in a 2025 release.

Mary’s faith was also central to her life. She was a member of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Grapevine, and attended both Saint Mary of the Springs Catholic Church and Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church when in Arkansas for racing at Oaklawn. She also wrote for the North Texas Catholic and the Arkansas Catholic.

In addition to her brother Ralph, Mary is survived by her mother, Patricia, and sisters Anna and Christina. Her father died in 2023. At the time of her passing, her family suggested that donations in Mary’s memory could be made to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church.



Photo by: Patricia Rampoloni

Mary (right) looks at foals with staff at Spendthrift Farm in Kentucky before heading to school

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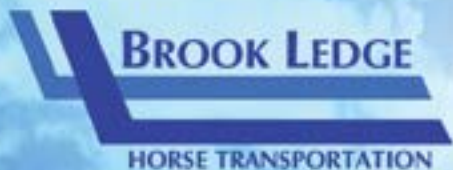


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A dynamic photograph of three horses and jockeys in mid-race. The jockey on the left wears a maroon and white uniform with a white helmet and has his arm raised in celebration. The jockey in the top right wears a red and white checkered uniform with a red helmet. The jockey in the bottom right wears a blue and white uniform with a blue helmet. The horses are galloping on a dark dirt track, with some dust kicked up.

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Photo by @Benoit



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REMEMBERING JOE PALMER

Joe Palmer took, publicly, no serious view of the world he loved. Flinching under the resounding titles of “Racing Editor of the New York Herald Tribune” and Columbia Broadcasting System’s “Turf Analyst,” he insisted he was “no noted lover of the horse, but of a way of life of which the horse was once, and in a few favored places still is, a symbol—a way of charm and grace and ease and leisure. Grace and charm should perhaps not be tampered with at this late date, but at whatever risk of boasting, I am as good at ease and leisure as any man alive.”

This was a lie, of course. (Joe was a prodigious liar where truth was not important.) No man who wrote had more grace and charm; few men had less ease and leisure, for he wrote all the time.

And Joe was too prolific—infuriatingly so to those who worked with him in the press boxes and bled at chores which he tossed off without apparent effort.

At any rate, this was racing as Joe Palmer saw it: Horses like Man o’ War, “as near to a living flame as horses ever get...” Places like Saratoga, which wears tradition lightly “because it is a graceful, irresponsible, gay tradition, and its ghosts are pleasant ghosts...” People like Lying’ Fitz, whose wooden-legged table cat could “catch mice with one hand and blackjack’ em with the other;” and like the minister’s son who grew up in a church painted in the racing colors of its irreverent benefactor—so “what chance did a boy have?”

To him racing was fun. Or, rather the life which racing made possible and which revolved around racing, was fun. He looked for fun always, even when he was at the typewriter sketching the outline for a chapter of a book on racing.

It seems hardly necessary to observe that, unlike most other writers in his field, Joe Palmer offered no system for beating the races nor any banal suggestion that “all men are equal on the Turf or under it.” A realist, he recognized the one as nonexistent; a man of discriminating tastes, he rejected the other as undesirable.

Nor did he ever refer to a Sport of Kings. A sport of ladies and gentlemen with cheerful brigands and small, skillful boys was good enough for him.

— Red Smith

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JOHN VELAZQUEZ

WINNER OF THE JOE PALMER AWARD

Meritorious Service To Racing

By Jay Hovdey

When John Velazquez walks into a jockeys' room anywhere in North America, the other riders pay heed. Their leader has arrived.

At 5-foot-6 and 114 pounds, lean as a 1-iron and just as hard to master, the native of Puerto Rico has defied both Father Time and rough landings. To his brothers in arms, he can be their toughest opponent as well as their most passionate advocate. And the 54-year-old seems far from finished.

There is only one Johnny V.

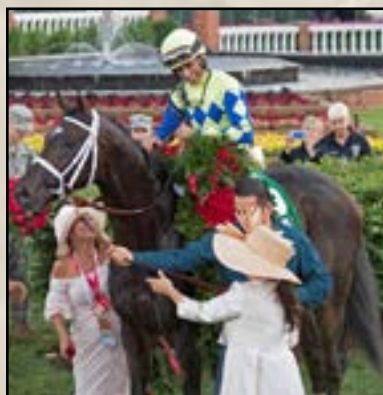
John Velazquez's body of work speaks volumes to his talent as a jockey, but the level of respect he garners from his peers – and the media, as noted by his selection as the Joe Palmer Award winner by the National Turf Writers and Broadcasters—is just as compelling. With three victories in the Kentucky Derby to his name, Velazquez already sits in exclusive company, behind only the five victories of Eddie Arcaro and Bill Hartack and the four recorded by Bill Shoemaker. As for the rest of his portfolio, there is no quick way to embrace the scope of his honors and statistical accomplishments without taking a deep breath. So here goes:

Since making his mainland debut in the second race at Aqueduct March 14, 1990, Velazquez has earned 22 individual New York meet titles, four New York season titles, two Eclipse Awards (2004-05), and two national money titles (2004-05).

He has been chosen for the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame (2012) and the Puerto Rico Horse Racing Hall of Fame (2006), the Mike Venezia Memorial Award (2014), and the George Woolf Memorial Jockey Award (2009).

Velazquez has won six Triple Crown events and 22 Breeders' Cup races. Through February of 2026, his horses had banked more than half a billion (that's billion) dollars. Javier Castellano, next on the list, was \$100 million behind.

If he keeps to his recent seasonal pace—knock on wood—Velazquez should reach the 7,000-winner plateau within the next two years. Only nine other riders in the history of the North American sport have crested that giddy total, topped by the 12,842 winners accumulated by Russell Baze. As goals go, though, 7,000 is in a rare class of its own. That particular club (7,000-7,999 wins) includes only Mario Pino, Edgar Prado, Chris McCarron, Perry Ouzts, David Gall and Angel Cordero Jr.



Always Dreaming, under John Velazquez, after the colt's victory in the 2017 Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs

After graduating from the Escuela Vocacional Hipica on the grounds of Puerto Rico's Hipodromo El Comandante (now known as Camarero), to the south of his birthplace in the Carolina suburb of San Juan, Velazquez won his first race there in January 1990. Two months later, Velazquez arrived on Long Island at the doorstep of Cordero, his fellow Puerto Rican. He was a wide-eyed 18-year-old with precious little English.

"He came out of that school pretty highly rated," said Mike Smith, a witness to the Velazquez journey from day one. "It was like he was already outworking the other 2-year-olds. I'm sure that's why they sent him to Angel."



Photo by Sky Dicklen

Authentic and John Velazquez win the 2020 Breeders' Cup Classic at Keeneland

Smith was likewise a newcomer to the New York scene after beginning his career in the Midwest. Just six years apart in age, Smith and Velazquez bonded in a friendship that has survived, and thrived, through the decades. No one would have guessed in a million years that the two young athletes loitering at the Cordero house would rise to their own heights of stardom.

Velazquez won his first United States race March 30, 1990. He ended the season with 109 wins and topped \$2 million in earnings from his 970 mounts. To say he never looked back is an understatement.

In 1996, Velazquez won his first title at Aqueduct's spring meet. In 1998, he took his first Saratoga Race Course championship on his way to his first \$10 million year in mount earnings.

Years later, he would score a breakthrough win in the Kentucky Derby when he picked up the mount on the Graham Motion-trained Animal Kingdom and piloted him to victory. He would add additional Derby victories in 2017 with Always Dreaming for his longtime supporter, Hall of Fame trainer Todd Pletcher, and in 2020 with Bob Baffert-trained Authentic during a COVID-19-impacted season in which the Derby was run without fans in attendance in September.

The following year in 2021, Velazquez got to appreciate the experience of guiding another horse past the wire first in the Run for the Roses during its customary first Saturday in May date, though the win—which would have elevated him into elite company as a four-time Derby winner—didn't stick. But Velazquez played his part to perfection, guiding Zedan Racing Stable's

Medina Spirit, trained by Baffert, to the lead, to the lead and they held fast to win by a half-length at 12-1. The prohibited race-day presence of the regulated steroid betamethasone ultimately resulted in his disqualification.

"I've still got the picture of Medina Spirit winning the Derby on my wall, and I'm never taking it down," Velazquez said.

After 36 seasons of year-round competition, during which Velazquez has ridden nearly 38,000 races, you would think he would be jealous of his me time and cuddle up at home with a good book. Not Johnny V.

Velazquez, who served as chairman of the Jockeys' Guild for more than 20 years and as co-chair with Smith since 2018, recently stepped down while remaining on its board of directors. He was tapped early by Lisa Lazarus, CEO of the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority, to bring his experience to the organization's Racetrack Safety Standing Committee. In coordination with HISA, Velazquez has represented his colleagues at industry conferences regarding jockey mental health and concussion protocols, including an appearance in 2025 before the Congressional Mental Health Caucus in Washington, D.C.

From its inception in 2006, Velazquez is a member of the board of directors of the Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund. And in 2025, John and Leona were honored with the Marylou Whitney and John Hendrickson Award by the New York Race Track Chaplaincy for their service to the backstretch community. He's on that board, too.

"After riding for around 15 years, I thought it was time for me to give something back," he said. "Of course, I didn't know how much time it would take. But the Guild needed help to get back on its feet, and there were many other issues in racing that needed to be addressed.

"There has been good work done in the area of jockeys' mental health issues and concussion studies. I know nothing moves quickly in racing, except for the horses. But progress is being made."

* This profile is reprinted with permission from the author and BloodHorse, which spotlighted Velazquez in its April 2026 issue. It has been condensed and edited due to space limitations.



Photo by: Skip Dickstein

John Velazquez and owner Mike Repole celebrate a victory by Fierceness in the 2023 Breeders' Cup Juvenile at Santa Anita Park

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Photo by Anne Eberhart Knight

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REMEMBERING JIM MCKAY

Change can come slowly to the racing industry. Members of the media involved in covering the sport are not exempt from that. The idea of adding broadcasters to the National Turf Writers Association was bandied about for years but not acted upon until finally, an organization with more than half a century of tradition happily morphed into the National Turf Writers And Broadcasters.

The expansion brought together two hard-working groups who could not be more passionate about the sport we cover. It provided broadcasters with a long overdue voice in voting for the Eclipse Awards. The only remaining issue was to find some means to salute broadcasting excellence during Breeders' Cup week at the organization's annual awards dinner.

This proved to be no issue at all. When the honor was first considered, numerous voices spoke up on behalf of the Jim McKay Award for broadcasting excellence. McKay is nothing short of an American icon who had a profound effect on racing. In his adopted state of Maryland, he is fondly remembered as the founding father of the Maryland Million.

McKay was born James McManus in 1921 in Philadelphia. He and his family moved to Baltimore at age 13. He graduated from Loyola College before serving as a captain in the Navy during World War II. He returned to Baltimore after the war and worked as a reporter for the Baltimore Sun before joining WMAR-TV in 1947.

Fittingly, his was the first voice ever heard on television in Baltimore, and his first broadcast was at Pimlico Race Course in 1947. It was the start of a love affair because racing captivated him like nothing else.

McKay left Baltimore in 1950 to join CBS. He eventually hosted ABC's Wide World of Sports for more than 25 years. Devoted viewers of that program can still hear his voice as he opened each program: "Spanning the globe to bring you the constant variety of sport... the thrill of victory, and the agony of defeat."

McKay was the first sportscaster to win an Emmy for news coverage. He would win 13. He covered more than 100 different sports in 40 countries. Spanning the globe, indeed.

He received the International Olympic Committee's highest honor, the Olympic Order, in 2002. He covered 12 Olympics, none more memorably than the 1972 Summer Games in Munich. He anchored the telecast when news broke that terrorists kidnapped 11 Israeli athletes. And it was McKay who grimly informed Americans that a raid to rescue athletes who had gathered in a spirit of harmony had ended tragically.

Whenever he could find some free time, McKay would retreat to his farm in Baltimore County. He lived there with his wife, Margaret, until his death on June 7, 2008. That was the day Big Brown was abruptly eased in the Belmont Stakes and failed to win the Triple Crown, becoming an enduring image of the "agony of defeat."

—Tom Pedulla

GOOD NEWS TRAVELS FAST.

Everyone at the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club congratulates tonight's National Turf Writers and Broadcasters Award winners – Team Golden Tempo, John Velazquez, Mary Rampellini, Team TVG/FanDuel Racing and Stable Recovery graduates. All have made incredible contributions to the world's most exciting sport and for that, we salute you.





TEAM TVG/FANDUEL WINNER OF THE JIM MCKAY AWARD

Career Excellence In Broadcasting

By Jennifer Kelly

The broadcasters who have called first TVG and then FanDuel TV home encompass centuries of experience on the racetrack and in front of the camera. Their hard work and shared commitment to the sport and to its fans made these professionals an integral part of more than one generation's experience of horse racing. For that, the members of the National Turf Writers and Broadcasters have voted them the recipients of the 2026 Jim McKay Award for career excellence in broadcasting.

Launched in 1999, the Television Games Network brought horse racing to viewers 365 days a year, starting with three racetracks and a handful of programs and later expanding from coast to coast.

Originally owned by TV Guide, Inc., the National Thoroughbred Racing Association and AT&T, TVG was acquired by Macrovision (later the TiVo Corporation) in 2008, and then by Betfair, the British bookmaker, later that same year. Betfair purchased HRTV, the network's main competitor, in 2015, and then created sister network TVG2. When a Supreme Court ruling legalized sports betting in 2018, Betfair acquired daily fantasy sports service FanDuel and added sports wagering programming alongside daily horse racing coverage on TVG. The channels were then rebranded as FanDuel TV in 2022. In March 2026, its parent company announced that it would wind down FanDuel TV's operations by the end of 2027, dialing back its racing coverage and laying off 60% of its workforce that June, and then the remainder this coming November.

While the channel will go dark, the impact that TVG/FanDuel has had on both the media and racing landscape will live on in both the relationships between broadcasters and viewers as well as the bonds formed as part of "Team TVG/FanDuel."

From the beginning, through its initial fits and starts, TVG/FanDuel sought to bring racing to the masses, and in the process, left its mark on how fans take in the sport.

"I think that most people today don't even remember a time that you couldn't walk in at home and turn on the television and watch horse racing, right?" said Caton Bredar, one of the original on-air personalities. "That is a legacy that will only be built on and will never be undone."



FanDuel TV broadcaster Caton Bredar interviews Cherie DeVaux at Churchill Downs

“When TVG launched, when you think about networks that are dedicated to one sport, you can now think of MLB TV, NBA TV, NHL Network, NFL Network, but back then, all those didn’t exist. TVG came before them,” said Todd Schrupp, another member of the channel’s original squad. “When we came into the marketplace in 1999, there was basically Golf Channel and Tennis Channel, and that was it. Now we have a whole generation that knows if you have a sport you’re interested in, you can find a channel solely dedicated to it. That didn’t exist in the way that it does now back in 1999. TVG really gave the industry an opportunity to be important again on television on a daily basis because that was happening around the country.”



Photo by: Anne Eberhardt Keogh

Todd Schrupp hosts television coverage from Saratoga Race Course

Not only did TVG/FanDuel bring racing to fans far and wide, it also sustained the sport and those who love it through the trials and tribulations of modern life, including the COVID pandemic.

“More recently, as a great example, there is a generation or a segment of viewers who discovered us during COVID,” said Schrupp. “It happens literally on a weekly basis when I’m at the track, someone comes up and goes, I just want to thank you and the people you worked with. You got me through COVID. I wasn’t a horse racing fan. I was looking for something to do, and I discovered you guys, and I’ve stayed with you ever since. Those stories have impacted me and will stay with me always.”

Through the ups and downs of corporate takeovers and the ubiquity of change, the people behind TVG/FanDuel maintained their drive for telling the stories of a sport while also building familial bonds between both on-air and behind-the-scenes talent.

For Bredar, the group we honor “is by far the best team ever, as far as not just their knowledge of horse racing and their dedication and work ethic to trying to convey the passion and the love for the sport that we have and try to inspire that in other people watching, but also just in supporting each other. Everyone was very devoted to that purpose of kind of spreading the joy of racing.”

“I wish that the people I worked with, everyone else could work with, because you will find the most loyal and dedicated coworkers,” Schrupp said. “One thing I would definitely want to emphasize is that when it is said this is an award to Team TVG and Team FanDuel TV, that applies to everyone who walked through the door back in 1999 and those who will be exiting in 2026.”

As we prepare to say goodbye to this era, the members of NTWAB honor the men and women of Team TVG/FanDuel with the Jim McKay Award, a fitting tribute to what they have meant to the sport over the last quarter century.

"It's just an exceptional honor for all of us," Bredar said. "I also think that it is also one of those that says 'you guys did good, everyone will miss this,' and that is something very rewarding to us."

Schrupp agreed and spoke for his co-workers past and present acknowledging the depth of an honor named for the late McKay.

"This award is everything to me, and it has meant everything because of the people that I got to work with and then the people that I got to meet," said Schrupp. "The experience at TVG was a defining moment in my life and always will be. To have the peers at NTWAB acknowledge us, and with a name like Jim McKay, it just makes all those moments where it looked great, or it didn't look so good, worth it over the years, and it only happened because of this collective."



Photo by: Anne Eberhardt Kocogh

Scott Hazelton prepares to interview Tony Lacy and Shannon Arvin at Keeneland



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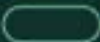
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Forte

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Greatest Honour

Into Mischief

Jackie's Warrior

Jimmy Creed

Kingsbarns

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Mitole

Mo Donegal

National Treasure

Omaha Beach

Rock Your World

Taiba

Temple City

Vekoma

Vino Rosso

Yaupon

Zandon

**"WE ARE, AND WILL REMAIN,
THE BREEDERS' FARM."**

ERIC GUSTAVSON



SPENDTHRIFT



REMEMBERING BILL MOONEY

If you were ever fortunate enough to be in Bill Mooney's presence for even a modicum of time, chances are you couldn't help but learn something. Yes, the two-time Eclipse Award winner could paint a word picture with the kind of vibrancy only innate talents boast. But what was truly exceptional about the noted Turf writer, historian and publicist was the breadth and depth of the encyclopedic knowledge that humbly resided beneath his trademark tan hat.

Be it the stock market, the state of the White Sox pitching staff or the long-lost history of the Tri-State Fair Grounds, Mooney's range of expertise was something that could only be honed by a person with unique appreciation for the craft of learning. His work in documenting the varied stories of horse racing brought this industry countless teachable moments, so it was only fitting that even in his darkest time, he still ended up serving a lesson.

In the early morning of Jan. 28, 2017, Mooney took his final breath and left us at age 69 following a lengthy battle with renal cell carcinoma. Two years prior to his passing, the NTWAB created an award to honor the tremendous courage he showed in the face of adversity and recognize his impact on the organization and everyone he touched.

Faced with a terminal diagnosis, Mooney took a death sentence and turned it into an opportunity – an opportunity to be a better person, a better friend, even a source of comfort. At a time when he should have been most selfish, he made it a point to be there for all of those in his life he valued, because he – more than anyone – knew the value of having an ally during both the best and most tragic of circumstances.

Even as his body became overwhelmed by the indiscriminate savagery of cancer, he was still a rock-solid sounding board for those seeking a snippet of the wisdom gained during a career whose achievements included co-authoring multiple editions of *The Complete Encyclopedia of Horse Racing*, penning the Tony Ryan Book Award-winning tome on Keeneland's Ted Bassett, and detailing the quintessential story about Ellis Park for *The Thoroughbred Record*. As he took countless concerned phone calls and greeted visitor after visitor wanting to absorb every possible moment with him, there was always a genuine inquiry as to how the other person was doing.

"I'm an ordinary guy," he said in response to being recognized by the Kentucky State Senate for his contributions to the racing industry. Out of respect for his being a notorious stickler for accuracy, we must take this opportunity to point out how off he was in that statement.

In honoring Bill, we recognize not just his fight against a medical diagnosis, but how determined he was to unearth something positive from a situation full of gravity. Up until his final moment, he maintained a perspective that defied his devastating reality. And when his time reached its conclusion, he departed having once again delivered a stellar lesson – one that taught all who knew him what it actual meant to live one's best life.

— Alicia Wincze-Hughes

Congratulations

to all the

Honorees

Team Golden Tempo

Hall of Fame Jockey John Velazquez

Late Turf Writer Mary Rampellini

Broadcast Team From TVG & FanDuel Racing

Graduates of Stable Recovery



Home of the NYRA Bets Haskell Stakes





Photo by: Sara Gordon

Scott Shepherd with a horse

STABLE RECOVERY WINNER OF THE BILL MOONEY AWARD

Courage in the Face of Tremendous Adversity
By Liane Crossley

The name Stable Recovery says it all especially with the double meaning of the word "stable."

The program's mission is to provide a safe and stable living environment for those in early recovery in a peer-driven therapeutic community with a focus on equine-related employment opportunities. The result thus far is more than 140 individuals in sobriety who have found meaningful jobs within the Thoroughbred industry. Byproducts include the rekindling of shattered relationships and paying it forward to assist and inspire others.

Other beneficiaries of Stable Recovery are employers who land dedicated staff members. And not to be forgotten are the non-judgmental horses (primarily Thoroughbreds) that are beneficiaries via the attention they receive from their caregivers' new-found positive attitudes and dedication.

To honor the far-flung success, graduates of the program founded by Frank Taylor and Christian Countzler are the recipients of the National Turf Writers and Broadcasters Association's Bill Mooney Award for demonstrating courage in the face of tremendous adversity.

Exponentially winning

"Stable Recovery is doing better than ever," Taylor said. "We have graduated more than 140 men and women and most have gotten jobs in the horse business. Even more importantly, we now have 44 Legacy graduates, men and women who have successfully completed our full one-year recovery program and are continuing to build stable, productive lives."

Taylor's family operates Taylor Made Farm in Nicholasville, Kentucky. The farm is a dominant breeding and auction consigning operation with a stallion roster that includes leading sire Not This Time. Taylor initially started the Taylor Made School of Horsemanship for men transitioning back into the workplace during addiction recovery. They learned skills that could lead to employment at the farm. That initiative led to Stable Recovery, a similar program with opportunities for both equine and mainstream jobs that now has a division for women.

Perhaps the most high-profile graduate is Will Walden, who rose from the depths of despair to become one of the nation's leading trainers in just a few years. More importantly, he is an eloquent spokesman, uplifting role model, husband and fun-loving father of two young children.



William Johnson alongside a canine friend

Photo by: Sara Gordon

After getting clean through the forerunner to Stable Recovery, Walden asked Taylor to buy 10 yearlings for him and two other graduates to train and eventually race. Under the Ready Made Racing banner, several horses excelled by winning and/or being sold for profit. The program along with Walden and Mike Lowry and Tyler Maxwell of his original team gained immediate and widespread attention as a logical way to improve lives and produce a workforce.



Photo by: Anne Eberhardt Keogh

Will Walden prepares for an interview with broadcaster Acacia Clement at Saratoga Race Course

The results are an exponential win-win situation for all involved especially the alumni who readily acknowledge that the original and subsequent horses deeply affected their lives.

“Thoroughbreds don’t just run,” Maxwell said. “They change lives.”

Stability in the stable Although Maxwell and Lowry left the track, they left their legacies as the gold standard of Stable Recovery’s program.

Lowry is a divisional manager at Taylor Made with a staff of 25 overseeing 250 Thoroughbreds. Maxwell works as an exercise rider at WinStar Farm in Versailles, Kentucky, where he has also

taken on a leadership role as a barn foreman.

Walden proudly reflects on the early days of the Ready Made Racing system.

“We learned as we went,” he said. “Through the breaking process, one of the cool parallels to see was that we started with yearlings, not horses who knew what they were doing. I was able to witness them every day and sometimes the yearlings would take one step forward and two steps back. The rider and the groom would also go one step forward and two steps back sometimes. But they learned on the same path. They taught each other. Each day one of the guys would learn something new and teach it to the horse. Then the horse would get hold of it and it just sort of snowballed day after day. When we came to Keeneland in the spring, we had 10 2-year-olds that acted like older horses.”

Later on, Walden was instrumental in the recovery of Blane Servis, another shining example of Stable Recovery’s power. Servis had lost his Pennsylvania training license after a week-long absence from his Parx Racing barn following years of drug and alcohol abuse. At first, he denied treatment but relocated for a foreman position at WinStar’s training center, where his troubles continued. He enlisted in Stable Recovery but relapsed on several occasions. Eventually Servis embraced the program’s brotherhood, got clean and obtained a job as head of Brad Cox’s Turfway Park division after starting back as a Godolphin Racing groom at Keeneland.

Servis returned home as a new man and has been assistant to his father John—of Smarty Jones fame—since February. His transformation serves as a reminder of the power of addiction recovery through dedication and great effort.

“People (at Parx) knew the old me when I was in active addiction before I went to treatment,” he said. “Since I’ve been back this year, it is like the first time all these people have seen me.”

Servis relishes his return to his roots while handling the stable’s responsibilities and staying mindful of his off-duty lifestyle. He no longer socializes just for the sake of socializing but enjoys family and business events minus the side of alcohol.

“I get to experience all that stuff sober, which was completely different than anything I was able to do before,” he said. “But I still am able to do things and have fun.”

Like Servis and Walden, many Stable Recovery members arrive as experienced horsemen while others are newcomers to the equine world. Walden tells the newbies of the magical connection between the animals and their humans.

“I told these guys when they first started, ‘I can’t tell you if it will be Day 1 or Day 1,000, but one day your eyes will meet a horse’s eyes and your souls will connect,’” he said. “You will realize the horse accepts you. He doesn’t know anything about your past, doesn’t care. Horses accept you for who you are right here and now. It is an empowering feeling.”



Photo by: Sara Gordon

Rachel Arnold holds a horse

A dark, moody photograph of a horse and foal running in a field. The horse is in the foreground, running towards the right, with a foal running alongside it. The background is a dense line of trees under a cloudy sky. The overall tone is somber and dramatic.

Out of **PURPOSE**

Every story is told with purpose. Every generation builds on the last. Congratulations to tonight's honorees, and to the writers and broadcasters who tell their stories.



STONESTREET

OAKLAWN

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is proud to join the National Turf Writers
and Broadcasters in honoring:

TEAM GOLDEN TEMPO

Hall of Fame Jockey **JOHN VELAZQUEZ**

Late Turf Writer **MARY RAMPPELLINI**

Broadcast Teams from **TVG,**
and **FANDUEL RACING**

GRADUATES OF STABLE RECOVERY



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TO THIS YEAR'S NTWAB AWARD WINNERS

TEAM GOLDEN TEMPO

♦ MR. FITZ AWARD ♦

JOHN VELAZQUEZ

♦ JOE PALMER AWARD ♦

MARY RAMPELLINI

♦ WALTER HAIGHT AWARD ♦

TEAM TVG/FANDUEL RACING

♦ JIM MCKAY AWARD ♦

STABLE RECOVERY

♦ BILL MOONEY AWARD ♦

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Visit equibase.com for the data you need for the promotion and coverage of Thoroughbred racing.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THIS YEAR'S WINNERS!

Team Golden Tempo
Mr. Fitz Award

Mary Rampellini
Walter Haight Award

John Velazquez
Joe Palmer Award

Team TVG / FanDuel Racing
Jim McKay Award

Graduates of Stable Recovery
Bill Mooney Award



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RECENT RECIPIENTS

'MR. FITZ' AWARD TYPIFYING THE SPIRIT OF RACING

2025
PERRY OUZTS
2024
TEAM KENNY MCPEEK
2023
TEAM CODY'S WISH
2022
JIM McINGVALE
2021
JOHN SHEAR
2019
D. WAYNE LUKAS
2018
MIKE SMITH
2017
RICK PORTER
2016
RUSSELL BAZE

2015
**TEAM AMERICAN
PHAROAH**
2014
ART SHERMAN
2013
RAMON DOMINGUEZ
2012
**MARIO GUTIERREZ &
IVAN PUHICH**
2011
TERRY WALLACE
2010
RICHARD MIGLIORE
2009
LARRY JONES

2008
LUKE KRUYTBOSCH
2007
CALVIN BOREL
2006
TEAM BARBARO
2005
NICK ZITO
2004
PATRICIA COOKSEY
2003
SACKATOGA STABLE
2002
CHRIS MCCARRON
2001
ALLEN JERKENS
2000
PAT DAY

WALTER HAIGHT AWARD CAREER EXCELLENCE IN TURF WRITING

2025
STEVE ANDERSEN
2024
SEAN CLANCY
2023
MIKE KANE
2022
**MIKE WELSH
TOM PEDULLA**
2021
LENNY SHULMAN
2019
TIM WILKIN
2018
MARTY MCGEE
2017
MATT HEGARTY

2016
HANK WESCH
2015
TIM LAYDEN
2014
TOM LAMARRA
2013
BOB FORTUS
2012
BILL MOONEY
2011
DAVID GRENING
2010
NEIL MILBERT
2009
DAN FARLEY
2008
MARYJEAN WALL

2007
DICK JERARDI
2006
STEVEN CRIST
2005
JAY PRIVMAN
2004
STEVE HASKIN
2003
RUSS HARRIS
2002
BILLY REED
2001
GARY WEST
2000
BILL CHRISTINE



RECENT RECIPIENTS

JOE PALMER AWARD MERITORIOUS SERVICE TO RACING

2025
JOE HARPER

2024
**BACKSIDE LEARNING
CENTER**

2023
**EDWIN J. GREGSON
FOUNDATION**

2022
BARBARA LIVINGSTON

2021
DAN SMITH

2019
RICK VIOLETTE

2018
JIM GLUCKSON

2017
WINNERS FOUNDATION

2016
AAEP

2015
CATHY SCHENCK

2014
COT CAMPBELL

2013
**MARYLOU WHITNEY &
JOHN HENDRICKSON**

2012
RAYMOND "BUTCH" LEHR

2011
NANCY LASALA

2010
OLD FRIENDS EQUINE

2009
DR. JACK ROBBINS

2008
CHRIS McCARRON

2007
DR. LARRY BRAMLAGE

2006
**DR. DEAN RICHARDSON
& NEW BOLTON CENTER**

2005
PETE PEDERSEN

2004
NOBLE THREEWITT

2003
LAFFIT PINCAY JR.

2002
**RICHARD L. DUCHOSSOIS
& EUGENE MELNYK**

2001
SHIRLEY DAY SMITH

2000
JIM McKAY

JIM McKAY AWARD CAREER EXCELLENCE IN BROADCASTING

2025
NICK LUCK

2024
LAFFIT PINCAY III

2023
KENNY RICE

2022
CHRIS LINCOLN

2021
STEVE BYK

2019
CATON BREDAR

2018
DONNA BROTHERS

2017
RANDY MOSS

2016
DAVE JOHNSON

2015
TOM HAMMOND

2014
CHARLSIE CANTEY

2013
JACK WHITAKER

BILL MOONEY AWARD COURAGE IN THE FACE OF TREMENDOUS ADVERSITY

2019
CINDY HUTTER

2019
KIARAN MCLAUGHLIN

2019
JOY SCOTT

2019
CATON BREDAR

2018
MARTINE BELLOCO

2017
RENE DOUGLAS

2015
BILL MOONEY

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU!

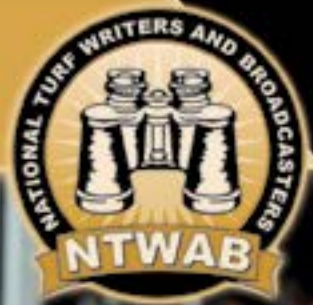


Photo by: Anne Eberhardt Keogh

**The NTWAB thanks all those who donated photographs
for tonight's program. We are especially grateful to
Skip Dickstein and Anne Eberhardt Keogh.
Their exceptional imagery fills many of these pages.**



TOC

On behalf of the
Thoroughbred Owners of California

Congratulations

to tonight's winners of the
NTWAB Annual Awards

HONORING EXCELLENCE IN
THOROUGHBRED RACING

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NTWAB PAST PRESIDENTS

2018-2024
TOM LAW
ST PUBLISHING/
THE SARATOGA SPECIAL

2016-2018
ALICIA WINCZE HUGHES
THE BLOOD-HORSE

2012-2016
TOM PEDULLA
AMERICA'S BEST RACING

2006-2011
TOM LAW
THOROUGHBRED TIMES

2005-2006
GARY WEST
FORT WORTH STAR TELEGRAM

2004-2005
MIKE KANE
SCHENECTADY GAZETTE
NEWSPAPERS

2002-2003
JENNIE REES
LOUISVILLE COURIER-JOURNAL

2000-2001
JAY PRIVMAN
DAILY RACING FORM

1997-2000
POHLA SMITH
PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

1994-1996
BILL NACK
SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

1992-1994
JENNY KELLNER
NEW YORK POST

1990-1992
BILL CHRISTINE
LOS ANGELES TIMES

1988-1990
BILLY REED
LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER

1986-1988
DALE AUSTIN
THE BALTIMORE SUN

1982-1986
DAN FARLEY
THE THOROUGHBRED RECORD

1978-1982
BILL LEGGETT
SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

1974-1978
GERALD STRINE
THE WASHINGTON POST

1971-1974
GERALD SULLIVAN
BOSTON HERALD-AMERICAN

1970-1971
RAYMOND JOHNSON
NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN

1968-1970
KENT HOLLINGWORTH
THE BLOOD-HORSE

1967-1968
JOE AGRELLA
CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

1966-1967
GENE WARD
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

1965-1966
DEAN EAGLE
THE LOUISVILLE TIMES

1965
OSCAR OTIS
DAILY RACING FORM

1964
JERRY MCNERNEY
LOUISVILLE COURIER-JOURNAL

1963-1964
WHITNEY TOWER
SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

1962-1963
NELSON FISHER
SAN DIEGO UNION

1961-1962
MAURICE SHEVLIN
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

1960-1961
BILL LAUDER
NEW YORK HERALD-TRIBUNE

1959-1960
JOE HIRSCH
DAILY RACING FORM



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**“EITHER WRITE
THINGS WORTH
READING,
OR DO THINGS
WORTH THE
WRITING.”**

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

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AND THANK YOU TO ALL THE
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