



Rambling Willie

Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

July 2017

Remember,
I pray for all
our members
every day.



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**Wanted
Praise Reports
Testimonies
Articles**

Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen
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or
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**God bless the USA
God bless Canada!
Happy Independence Day!
Happy Canada Day!**



Sergeant Reckless

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

Sergeant Reckless, a Mongolian mare out of a thoroughbred dam, was purchased by US Marine Lieutenant Eric Pedersen from a Korean stable boy at the Seoul racetrack. The boy needed money to buy an artificial leg for his sister.

The Recoilless Rifle Platoon trained Reckless to carry the heavy 24-pound shells for their unit's recoilless rifles through the mountainous battlefields of Korea. These Marines became Reckless' family. She had the spirit of a good marine. Reckless even visited the mess tent and enjoyed scrambled eggs, cola, peanut butter sandwiches, milk and beer with the soldiers. On cold nights, she would wander into one of the troop tents and curl up next to the fire.

Reckless learned her lessons well. You only had to show her a route a few times. Then she was able to haul the heavy ammunition through enemy fire and wounded soldiers to safety all by herself. Her baptism under fire came the first time they fired the big recoilless rifle in her presence. She jumped with all four feet leaving the ground together even though she was packing heavy ammunition. After that, she was always calm.

Twice, while injured in the heat of the battle, she continued to work, not wanting to let her troop down. Reckless earned two purple hearts, a bronze star and some other medals as well as a promotion to staff sergeant. She stuck by her troop and her troop stuck by her.

Jesus spent three years developing a relationship with his disciples. They were close but Jesus wanted them to be part of the family. He promised to send the Holy Spirit who would be with them

forever. He told them, "On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you" (John 14:20).

Before Jesus left for heaven, He instructed his followers to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit. They were all together when suddenly, in a powerful display of fire and the howling of the wind, they were all baptized with the Holy Spirit, just as Jesus promised.

Immediately, the disciples boldly went out and spoke to the crowds who had gathered to see what was causing all the commotion. Peter told them, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

We also receive the Holy Spirit when we are baptized. We are part of the family of God. Reckless, as one of the Marines, fell into step and served alongside her platoon. We as part of the family of Christ show Christ living in us as we fall into step with the Holy Spirit. As spirit-filled Christians we exhibit the fruits of the spirit which are "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23). Jesus displayed these same characteristics.

Reckless' platoon worked hard to have her transferred to retirement at Camp Pendleton in California. Many of the men who served with her traveled to San



Sgt Latham with Sgt Reckless

Blessings

From Charley and Dot Morgan...

Here is a picture of Charley and me celebrating our 46th anniversary. Reflecting on those years, we know God put us together, and He never makes a mistake. I honestly can't remember a fight, except about the horses. LOL! And we both agreed, that during those 46 years 'divorce' has never



crossed either of our minds or the temptation to be unfaithful. We see each other through the eyes of unconditional love, overlooking spots, wrinkles and shortcomings, trusting fully without an ounce of jealousy. And, our love grows richer every year.

God has always been first and centermost in our marriage. We give him **all** the credit and praise Him every day.

From Jake Huff and Bruce Ranger...

Mike Deeters, who we prayed for a while ago for throat cancer, got a good report. after a long winter of treatment, his cancer is in remission. He's racing at Tioga and feeling good.

From Doug Nash...

"Thank You" and your group, for your thoughts and prayers; they are an inspiration to me!!

From Harold Kelly's daughter...

Dad's surgery went well. He will probably be sore for a while. Thank you for the thoughts and prayers.

From Chris McKee...

The surgeon said Meagan's procedure to repair the hole in her heart went perfectly.

Sgt Reckless Cont from Page 1

Francisco to greet her when she arrived by boat and to participate in her hero's welcome and celebration.

Jesus certainly worked hard and paid a big price to secure our retirement home. Our retirement is in heaven but eternal life starts now when we glorify God with our lives. Our mission is to walk as Christ walked with the help of the Holy Spirit, sharing our love with those around us and thereby encouraging them in faith.

Sources:

Robin Hutton, *Sgt. Reckless: America's War Horse* (Washington: Regnery Publishing, 2014).

"Sergeant_Reckless," *Wikipedia*, last updated April 19, 2017, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sergeant_Reckless.

New Book Downloading God by Jack Alan Levine

"Downloading God" is the file of information that today's generation needs to click on more than ever.

Jack Levine's authentic and transparent self-disclosure rings through in his passionate devotion to his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. His simple, straightforward, trademark writing style, as in his previous books, allows the reader to easily absorb and apply the word and truth of God in a realistic, revolutionary and redemptive way.

'Downloading God' has short chapters all themed around a clever computer technology motif which makes the timeless truths of God both real and relevant to contemporary culture.

See page 3 to order



Sergeant Reckless Under Fire



A memorial to Sergeant Reckless in Semper Fidelis Memorial Park at the National Museum of the Marine Corps

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Horseshoe Nail Cross necklaces and key rings and heart bracelets—see below

BooksDownloading God by Jack Levine ☐ **New Book**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 ☐**Rambling Willie Remembers**

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

Horseshoe Nail Heart Bracelets and Cross Necklaces and Keyrings**Horseshoe Nail Product Descriptions****Bracelet:** Horseshoe nails are bent into a heart and tied together with coordinated wire and attached to a leather strap.**Key Ring:** Horseshoe nails are bent in to a cross and tied together with color coordinated wire. Key ring is attached with rawhide.**Necklace:** Key ring: Horseshoe nails are bent in to a cross and tied together with color coordinated wire.**Horseshoe Nail Item Order Form—Orders can also be placed at www.chha.net/products**

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

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

Roger Huston · 225 Fieldbrook Dr · Cannonsburg, PA 15317

Bracelet Qty: Black / Silver ____ Rawhide / Gold ____ Rawhide / Turquoise ____

Necklace Qty: Red ____ Blue ____ Turquoise ____

Keyring Qty: Red ____ Blue ____ Turquoise ____ Silver ____



Obituaries continued from page 5

Townsend Dickerson "T.D." Van Camp II, 77, died May 1. Townsend and his wife, Linda, bred and owned 1992 Hambletonian Oaks winner Worldly Woman. He was an asphalt-paving contractor for 50 years. Along with his family, he enjoyed a love for Standardbreds and their farms and was blessed with success in the breeding, raising and sale of several world champions. He also loved the water, boating and fishing with his friends and family at his second home in Burnt Store Marina, FL. He served as president of the Harness Horse Youth Foundation, president of the United Way and president of Chamber of Commerce.

Joe Dugan Jr., 50, of Smyrna, DE, died May 13. In his teens, young Joe, representing Brandywine Raceway, won the Harness Tracks of America's National Junior Driving championship. He went on to become an owner, trainer and driver, competing primarily at Brandywine, Dover Downs and Harrington in Delaware and at Rosecroft and Laurel Raceway in Maryland. While away from the racetrack, Mr. Dugan enjoyed fishing in his spare time, and spending time with his family and friends.



Shelley Dianne Gass, 45, of Cornwall, PEI, died May 12. Shelley and her family owned and raced horses her whole life. Her parents, Ronnie and Dianne Gass stable around 40 horses at their Cornwall farm. Shelly owned many trotters and received several awards. She was the nicest woman you would ever meet. She always smiled, saw the good in everyone and always had time to have a chat. Shelley was in a wheelchair most of her life but she made the most of her time on earth and was always so positive about everything. She loved horses, friends and her family. She will be missed by everyone that knew her.



Ron Giehls, 82, died May 9. Ron started his harness racing career in 1960 serving as assistant program director, assistant race secretary, and associate judge at many racetracks including Hamilton Raceway, Lebanon Raceway, Hazel Park, and Wolverine Raceway. Pompano Park and Latonia Raceway. He served as racing secretary at Wheeling Downs, and Saginaw Valley Downs before accepting the position of racing secretary at Lebanon Raceway in 1988. He retired from Lebanon in 2013. Ron was a member of the Lebanon United Methodist Church.



Doug Haskell died May 27. Doug was an avid skier throughout his life. He started on the Okemo ski patrol in

1966. In 1974, Doug and three friends established Dadd's Restaurant at the base of Okemo Mountain. Later he spent 20 years as a Vermont food distributor for Sysco. Doug was always very happy and upbeat. He had many friends and was good to his family. He and his wife Karen loved to travel and enjoyed some very exciting adventures together. Doug was Chaplain Lee's cousin.



Emil J. "Bunny" Konesky, 91, of Woodville, OH died May 23. Emil was a lifelong auctioneer, farmer and race horse owner. He was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church, Gibsonburg, Woodville Twp. Trustees, past President of the Ohio Auctioneer Association. Emil was instrumental in the building of the new Woodville Fire Dept. and Westwood Cemetery.



Michael Luchento, 59 of Manalapan, NJ died May 12. Michael was employed by Freehold Raceway for 20 years as valet to the harness drivers. He was a drummer and an avid fan of the group Rush. Michael had Fabry disease, and served as a pioneer for clinical trials that led to FDA approved enzyme replacement therapy. Michel is the brother of former New Jersey Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association (SBOANJ) president Thomas Luchento, who is currently a director of that organization.

Jeanne Marie Staffrey, 90, of Canfield, Ohio, died June 3. Together with her late husband, Dominic, she was active in harness racing, campaigning top horses at both Ohio fairs and pari-mutuel tracks. Jeanne served more than 30 years as an officer of the Canfield Harness Horsemen's Association and was once a director of the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association.



Judy Wall, 73, of Hawkinsville, GA died June 3 following a long illness. She was a huge racing enthusiast, working in nearly every facet of the harness horse racing industry throughout her life from mucking stalls, managing a racing stable, traveling the Michigan fair circuit, charting races, working at a breeding farm, and even arranging the shipping schedules for a horse transport company. She worked hard to bring pari-mutuel harness racing to Georgia, traveling the state on numerous occasions to meet with legislators. For the past 30 years, Judy could be found in the judges' booth charting qualifying races at the Hawkinsville Harness Training Center and during the Harness Festival. Judy also was a much sought after dog sitter and groomer.



Obituaries

Roger Combs, 78, died recently. According to Roger Huston, "Roger began his Harness Racing career in the early 70's. He was one of those little guys in the business that did it for the love of the horse and excitement of competition. Remember this was in the days of the little guy in the business trying just to take care of family and the horses. He drove his last race in 1996 a qualifier at Rosecroft. A number of years he lived in a tack room here at The Meadows and worked at The Keystone Harness Shop." [...] "He would greet you with that shy grin and was always in a pleasant mood." Roger was a member of the Christian Harness Horsemen's Association.



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

Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Shelley Gass** by: Twila and Stephen Mahar
In memory of **Terry Holton** by: Jim and Judy Ferguson
In memory of **Emil "Bunny" Konesky** by: Blooded Horse Sales Co, Jerry and Billie Haws and Charley and Dot Morgan
In memory of **Sam McKee** by: Harold Kelly
In memory of **David Meirs** by: Harold Kelly
In memory of **Charlie Pitts** by: Franny West and Chuckie and Francie Pitts
In memory of **Paul E Pollara** by: Paul Pollara
In memory of **Del Richards** by: Mary Beth Wing

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:

Lew Arsenault, Dan Ater, Debbie Boardman, Jeanne Duso Boudot, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Rick Carson, Karen Carter, Sam Castimore, Candice Coleman, Sharon Cromer, Joe Crothers, John Cross, Mike Deeters, Barbara Dinning, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Francine Federici, Tiffany Fisher, Lloyd Fortune, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, Warren Harp, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Glenda Holloway, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, Bob Kinsey, Donnie Knight, Larry Lederman, Rox Liles, Ricky Macomber, Nelson Malin, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Donna McIvor, Mira McKnight, Mrs. Miller, Frank Mirahmadi, Lalya Mosley, Corey Murphy, Howard Nields, Pierre Noel, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Dee Parsons, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Emily Roper, Daren Richner, Taila Kapo Rinski, Del Smart, Elaina Storlazi, Doug Stringer, Jack Taylor, Carrie Thompson, Gary Tyron, Butch Ward, Fred Ward Sr., Roland Wardel, Evan Wellwood, Marty Woebkenberg, Joyce Zeasapolowski

These friends are also in need of our ongoing prayers:

Jason Apperti, Jordan Aracena, Chaplain Kelly Blanton, Gary Bennett, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Danny Breton, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Mary Clements, Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta, Bev Crane, Karen Crothers, Dale, Dennis Drenth, Jeff Frizzell, Sylvain Gagnon, Greg Gehman, Dr. Howard Gill, Bob Goth, Barbara and Brent Graham, Debbie Gray, Sherie Hankins, Bob Hilliard, Bob Jones, Doug Haskell, Ruby Hensley, Miguel Hernandez, Paul and Mrs. Hershey, Carol Heusinkveld, Jerry Hissam, John Hostler, Jesse Hughes, Don James, Kenny Kane, Barbara Kinsey, Thelma Klark, Michael Klark, Larry Lawter, Sam Lilli, Katherine Lonager, Billy Long, Sharon Lowell,

Faye Mackey, Joanne Maiorca, Pedro Martinez, Jr., Melissa MacNeill, Kaye McDonnell, Dean Miller, Raymond Miller, Nancy Miner, Gordon Murphy, Doug Nash, Bill Parker, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Waverly Parsons, Susan Parks, Aaron Petternel, Rita Polese, Art Plant, Joanne Ranger, Donnie Richards, Lori Romanetti, Gerald Russell, Tori Scott, Madisyn Smith, Brad Strawser, Lee Anne Taylor, Monica Thors, Marsh Townley, Lorraine Truitt, Mel Turcott, Justin Vance, Max Walton, Steve Warner, Greggie Welch, Jr.

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

Please pray for those serving in the military, especially Joshua Hankins, Yann Lamiqu, Chris Petruzzo and Elizabeth Welch

Special Intentions for this month:

Warren Harp has stage 4 cancer, and it is spreading.
Jason Hughes is in an induced comma with breathing problems and fractures.
Jeannette Hughes has terminal cancer.
Dorothy Geer is recovering from surgery.
Danielle Gehman's husband absconded with her three kids.
Jeff Hurst has stage 4 lung and liver Cancer.
Tom Maloney has colon cancer.
Meagan McKee had a hole in her heart repaired.
Leigh Raymer's cancer is back.
Sammy is suffering with deep depression.
Torie Scott is on the donor list for a pancreas and kidney. She is taking dialysis.
Kim Jan Tausch had a total knee replacement.
Sgt David Thomas is suffering with emotional problems after serving our country for 30 years.
Carrie Thompson continues to fight cancer.
Maddy Wright has breast cancer.
Archie Wyatt had open-heart surgery.



157 North Main St
Salem, NH 03079
USA

Racing for Christ



Your horse can too

Information at www.chha.net

Please indicate
Address corrections

Join us Monday August 7th at Gaitway Farm

Christian Symbols from Horseshoes *Forged by blacksmith Ernie Lowell*



Ernie Lowell demonstrated the creation of a Christian fish from a horseshoe at his Saco, ME blacksmith shop. It was fun to watch the fins, lips and eyeball appear as he wielded his hammer and chisel. Ernie gave this fish to Bruce Ranger. He also made the beautiful horseshoe cross pictured to the right which now hangs on a friend's barn. The cancer poem is printed on the picture.



Cancer is so limited

It cannot cripple love.
It cannot shatter hope.
It cannot corrode faith.
It cannot destroy peace.
It cannot kill friendship.
It cannot suppress memories.
It cannot silence courage.
It cannot invade the soul.
It cannot steal eternal life.
It cannot conquer the spirit.
It cannot lessen the power
of the resurrection.

Unknown Author



New Jersey Event — Monday, August 7th



Co-sponsored by the Standardbred
Owners Association of New Jersey



Join us at Gaitway Farm in Englishtown, NJ Monday, August 7th for lunch and a message from NY Chaplains Humberto and Karen Chavez. Music will be provided by Marybeth DiAngelo and her friends.



Above: NY racetrack Chaplains Humberto and Karen Chavez

Left: Marybeth DiAngelo and her music group at our Gaitway Farm event last year.

