



Rambling Willie

## Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

March 2017

Remember,  
I pray for all  
our members  
every day.



Chaplain Lee Alphen

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Wanted  
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Please send to Chaplain Lee Alphen  
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or

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### In Memorium

This issue  
of the news-  
letter is  
printed in  
memory of  
Andy Wood.



Rest in peace Andy.

## God Speaks Well of You

By Chaplain Lee Alphen

At a 2001 high school graduation in Peoria, Illinois, a member of the graduating class paused in his speech, bowed his head in prayer and then faked a sneeze. The entire class rose to their feet and said, "God bless you." Applause filled the auditorium.

"Praised be to God the Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3). The word used here for blessing is translated as "eulogy," which means "to speak well of." When we say, "God bless you" to someone, we are asking God to speak well of them.

It was very encouraging to hear candidates on both sides of the aisle end their campaign speeches last fall with "God bless you." President Trump ended his inauguration address with these words: "God bless you, and [...] God bless America." I also liked Pastor Sam Rodriguez's reading of the beatitudes. Rather than beginning each beatitude with "Blessed are," he used the phrase "God blesses."

Beginning with the creation story in Genesis, we read about God blessing the people (Genesis 1:22). God blesses Abraham and promises to make his name great. God says that Abraham will be a blessing. God promises to bless those who bless Abraham and curse those who curse him. God says that all the people on the earth will be blessed through Abraham (Genesis 12:2-3).

The Israelites did a great job following God's orders in building the tabernacle, so Moses blessed them (Exodus 39:42-43). Then God told Moses to make an altar and that wherever God's name was honored, God will bless the people (Exodus 20:24). God also said that if they worshiped the Lord their God, God's blessing would be on their food and

water and God would take away their sickness (Exodus 23:25).

"The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites.''" Then he taught them The Priestly Blessing below.

### The Priestly Blessing

"The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you;  
the LORD turn his face toward you  
and give you peace." (Numbers 6:24-26).

Throughout 1 Samuel, Samuel and Saul invoke God's blessing on each other. In the gospels, Jesus puts his hand on the children and blesses them (Mark 10:13-16).

Jesus tells the people to "bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you (Luke 6:28). Paul reiterates this, "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse" (Romans 12:14). Peter says, "Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing so that you may inherit a blessing" (1 Peter 3:9).

Jesus also says, "When you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind and you will be blessed" (Luke 4:13). Paul encourages the people to give generously so that they will be blessed abundantly (2 Corinthians 9:7-8)

As Jesus was ascending into heaven, he lifted his hands and blessed his disciples (Luke 24:50-51). Jesus returned to heaven where we are counting on Him to speak well of us to God. How can we be sure He does this for us? Jesus said, "If you stand before others and are willing to say you believe in me, then I will say that you belong to me" (Luke 12:8).

So, first we must believe. Then because we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, let's learn from all Jesus said and did. He set a great example of how to love one another. Perhaps it starts with speaking well of others.

## Blessings

*From Joanne Mann...*

Praise the Lord, Thelma Klark, who was unresponsive for over 24 hours, finally woke up. Gradually she got up, dressed, ate and began to function more normally. The nursing home staff is watching her for a possible brain bleed. Please continue to pray for her.

*From Lisa Schwartz...*

Just got a very excited call from Lyndsay Hagemeyer. Ohio State College of Veterinary Medicine called this morning and offered her a seat in the incoming class. I asked her if she accepted the invitation and she said "Oh yes!" Check this off as a good PTL moment.

*From Ross Hankins...*

Marilyn is cancer free – Praise God!

*From Beth Cain...*

Jake came through beautifully... thanks to all for prayers. Blessings, Beth



Cindy Graham has taken up painting. For more information, contact her at 705-933-0044 or ELroope33@gmail.com.

**Discounted Stallion Breedings** are available at [www.chha.net/stallion-auction](http://www.chha.net/stallion-auction)

Contact Chaplain Lee for pricing and more information.

## Past, Present, Future

*by Brandon Givens*

At a young age people said, I was the best  
That I could drive race horses better than the rest.  
I'd go to the barn each and every day  
To feed all the horses grain, water and hay.  
I'm 8 years old now and it's time to train  
Hopping in the cart there's no feeling the same.  
My father and I race on our track at the farm  
I sit to back and then pass to his alarm.  
He said son, you have the hands of gold  
A gifted horseman who is only 8 years old.  
Then at 18 I began to professionally race.  
My first drive was 2<sup>nd</sup> right there, giving up chase.  
I'm leading with wins in two different states  
The Horizon Award Winner so my life is great.  
Then in 2006 horses fall on the track.  
I break my leg and another don't come back.  
10 years later I sit in jail present day  
A 30 year old heroin addict with a lot to say.  
I'm sorry to all I've hurt in the past  
It's present day and I'm clean and sober at last.  
I plan to drive horses and once again be great  
Hopefully it comes in the near future and its not too late.



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

### Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Joe Adamsky** by: Anthony and Jackie Amato, Jack and Irene Anders, Thomas Barry, David and Nancy Bowser, Jo-Dee Brown, Lake Equine Assoc, Northfield Park Associates, Ohio Harness Horsemen's Assoc, Florence and Brad Wallace

In memory of **Barbara Brainard** by: Peter Blood

In memory of **Leonard Bucker** by: Brad and Florence Wallace

In memory of **Floyd Carpenter** by: Dorothy Farrington

In memory of **Donnie Conrad** by: Roselea Conrad

In memory of **Ruby Cook** by: Curby Stillings

In memory of **Bob Farrington** by: Donna Ingram

In memory of **James J Ingram** by: Donna Ingram

In memory of **William James** by: Kathleen James

In memory of **Teri Kaneoka** by: Jo-Dee Brown

In memory of **Bill Lancaster** by: Joy Lancaster-Dolan and Peter Blood

In memory of **Dr Robert E Mairs** by: Brad and Florence Wallace

In memory of **Philip Morris** by: Jo-Dee Brown

In memory of **Maurice "Moe" Negrini** by: Janice Sarnie

In memory of **Margaret Nields** by: Howard W Nields, Ph D

In memory of **Lee Edward Shoemaker** by: Dr Bob and Lisa Schwartz

In memory of **Bill and Dennis Wick** by: Susan Throm-White

In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Ken and Betty Wood

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[To Donate Now—Click here](#)

**New on-line store:** Check out our new on-line store at [www.chha.net/products](http://www.chha.net/products) to select a free gift for your \$20 donation. More items will be added later. Credit card and PayPal donations are accepted.

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

**Gifts**

10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (see picture)

**Bracelets are new**



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

**Books**

*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  **New Book true story**



*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](http://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

kidney/pancreas transplant. He was back to driving and training horses within 3 months. In 1995, while he was in the hospital for partial foot amputations, he suddenly went completely blind and never regained any sight. Ty was an inspiration to everyone who knew him. No matter the disabilities and obstacles, he wouldn't give up. He learned to use talking software and could research things on the internet, prepare Excel spreadsheets, and help Holly with her business. He rarely felt sorry for himself. His close friends and wife knew him to be one of the most witty and hilarious people on earth. He used to laugh and tell people he was "the autopsy that lived." Instead of giving up, he did everything possible to be a productive man. It helped that he had his wife, Holly, and guide dog, Max, at his side.

**Aime J. Choquette**, 102, harness racing icon, died Jan. 24 in Sherbrooke, Quebec. As the second son in a family of eight, Aime attended local schools then had a successful early career as a hunter/jumper trainer on the local scene. In 1952 after becoming attracted to the emerging sport of harness racing, he headed South to Ben White Raceway in Orlando, FL. He was hired by Delvin Miller who recognized his talent early on. The rest is history...as he became top 2nd trainer, racing Grand Circuit coast to coast with some of the greatest horses of all time. In 1974, he was sent to Paris to train the great trotting mare, Delmonica Hanover for the upcoming Prix d'Amerique. She won for talented driver, Hans Fromming...becoming "1974 Horse of the Year." Aime also trained many grooms over the years and their stone at the Hall of Fame in Goshen reads, "To Aime Choquette, Second to None...as a Horseman and a Gentleman." *Submitted by Jean Emerson.*



**Ronald R. Fuller, DVM**, 83, of Newark, Ohio, died Jan 10. Ron earned his Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine at Ohio State University. He went on to establish The Newark Animal Hospital where he dedicated more than 50 years of service. Following his retirement, he was a presenter with International Equine Seminars in addition to his 20 years with Lake Erie Seminars.



**Henry "Hank" Kumler Kauffman**, age 81, of Baltimore, Ohio, died Jan 13. He was a realtor and very active as a more than 50-year member of the Baltimore Masonic Lodge, the Shrine, the Scottish Rite and York Rite. Hank was a second generation grocer and owner of Kauffman's IGA Foodliner. He was a past Baltimore Fire Chief and greatly enjoyed breeding Standardbred horses. Undoubtedly, Kauffman's pride and joy was the 2007 Ohio Horse of the Year, KF St Patrick.

**Tom Kirwan**, 70, a former trainer/driver who spent nearly 30 years as the stall superintendent at The Meadows, died Jan 27. When he was 18, Tom went to the races while visiting relatives. Shortly after he went to work as a caretaker for George Beinhauer. "Flaky," as Tom was known, worked for the Beinhauer Stable for several years, living at the Beinhauer's Von Valley Farm. He started driving horses in 1966 at The Meadows and around the Pennsylvania fair circuit. Eventually he became the Ed Ryan Stable's main trainer and driver. In the late 1980s, when Ryan was a co-owner of The Meadows, Tom transitioned from the barn to the race office and became the track's stall superintendent, a position he held for three decades until his retirement in 2015.

**Edward Melvin Lilley**, 91, of Ferndale, NY died Jan 14. Mr. Edward retired from racing after spending many years as an owner, trainer and driver at Monticello Raceway. His eight-horse stable was one of the first on the grounds of Monticello Raceway in April 1963. He was the recipient of the Good Guy Award in 1988 from the Monticello Harness Horsemen's Association.



**Margaret Ann Nields**, 74, of Mechanicsburg, PA died Nov 22. She and her husband, CHHA member Howard Nields, celebrated their 50th anniversary on Nov 12. Margaret was a member and deacon at Silver Spring Church, worked for 50 years as a NICU/Specialized Care Nursery and taught nursing at Hahnemann (Drexel).



**Roy O'Hagan**, 83, of Hanover, Ontario, died Jan 22. Roy trained, raced, bought and sold horses for more than 50 years. He spent many winters training yearlings in Florida. His proudest moment was seeing one of his trainees, Rock N Roll Heaven, go on to become 2010 Horse of the Year.



**Gerald Francis "Frank" O'Mara**, 84, died Jan 4. Frank is probably best known for developing and campaigning the great Mystic Park, winner of the American Trotting Championship, The Dexter Cup and the Yonkers Trot. Frank wound up back on the family farm when his father became temporarily blind. After "piling up" four wins during the 1952-1953 seasons, in 1954, Frank left the farm and went to work on an ore carrier in the Great Lakes—that is until a storm did some quick readjustment of his career strategy and it was back to the track for the 1955 season to, earnestly, begin his grand career.



**Lee Edward Shoemaker**, 81, of Washington CH, OH died Jan 9. He served in the US Army. Lee and his wife, Shirley, were the owners/operators of Skyscraper Restaurant. He was a harness horse trainer for over 45 years. He was a member of the Bible Baptist Temple and the Harness Horseman Association where he received Horseman of the Year of Fayette County.



**Andrew Torre**, 82, of Amherst, NY, died Feb 5. Andrew was a long time horseman in Western New York. He competed at Buffalo Raceway and Batavia Downs over the years as an owner, trainer and driver.

**Neal G. Tranten**, 84, of Kingfield, ME, died Jan 10. After serving in the US Marines, Neal returned to Maine to work for his father at the Tranten General Store. Locals deciding town politics often surrounded his butcher block. He brought the delicatessen idea to town by selling Italian sandwiches from behind the meat case. He not only was the butcher but had a roll top desk tucked in the back serving as the town office to carry out his town clerk duties. He would sell fishing licenses and perform marriages in that corner of the store. He built a new grocery store 30 years ago which is now Tranten's Family Market on Main Street in Kingfield. Neal also raised and trained harness horses.



## Obituaries

**Barbara Brainard**, 74, died Jan 10. Barbara and her husband, Donald, owned and bred harness horses for 50 years. She was known throughout the industry as a warm, loving, caring individual. In an interview several years ago, she said, "I get great satisfaction on seeing others achieve their potential. It does my heart so much good seeing others succeed."

**Troy Boring**, 54, of MI died Jan 8. Troy, one of Michigan's leading drivers in the 1980s and 1990s was the son of Hall of Fame horseman, Chris Boring. He trained a small stable and drove 2,766 winners in his career, with \$12,757,580 in purse earnings. His victory total included several Michigan Sires Stakes champions. He also drove 1984 Little Brown Jug winner Colt Fortysix and world champion Albert Albert for his father.

**David P Buckson**, 96, a founder of Dover Downs and former Republican governor, died Jan 17. David was a Standardbred owner, trainer and driver and competed as an amateur driver in the 1990s. He had a passion for horse racing that in the 1960s sparked the idea for Dover Downs. In 1967, Mr. Buckson pitched the idea of a racing complex north of Dover that would host horse and auto races. "I saw this one farm that had a hill," said Mr. Buckson in a 2010 interview in the *Delaware State News*. "All the other land in Kent was kind of flat." Early in life, David had a love of horses. He exercised Thoroughbreds at Delaware



Park as a young man and drove harness horses in the region for decades.

**Floyd H. Carpenter**, 87, of West Mansfield, OH died Dec 25. Floyd was a truck driver. He also worked construction and in farming throughout his life. He loved horses, whether riding them or working with them. He was the brother-in-law of Richard and Dorothy Farrington

**Ty Case**, 60, died on Jan 13. Ty started racing ponies as a little boy. He began training and driving Standardbreds full-time right after high school. His father, Jim Case, was part owner of the High Hope Racing Stable and Ty was able to help develop, train, and drive many good horses. Ty was so proud of having George Teague work for him when they were both young men. George, Little Brown Jug winner, Wiggle It Jiggle It's trainer, always gave credit to Ty for teaching him ways to develop young horses. As a teenager, Ty developed diabetes. In his late thirties, diabetes began to take its toll. He had kidney failure and then went on dialysis. In 1993, he had a



**Obituaries continued on page 4**

### Sources for Obituary information include:

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

## Prayer Corner

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

Lew Arsenault, Dan Ater, Ronny Battis, Debbie Boardman, Jeanne Duso Boudot, Jana Brocco, Gary Bryant, Rick Carson, Karen Carter, Sam Castimore, Ginny Chudoba, Candice Coleman, Sharon Cromer, Joe Crothers, Barbara Dinning, Maryanne Doherty, Jerry Eby, Chaplain Tom Farley, Francine Federici, Tiffany Fisher, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, Warren Harp, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, 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, Pierre Noel, Shari Okusko, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Dee Parsons, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Daren Richner, Taila Kapo Rinski, Del Smart, Elaina Storlazi, Doug Stringer, Beverley Sweeney, 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:**

Joe Adamsky, 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, Melissa McKee, Dean Miller, Raymond Miller, Nancy Miner, Gordon Murphy, Margaret Nields, Bill Parker, Elaine Parlin, Ronnie Parker, Waverly Parsons, Susan Parks, Aaron Petternel, Rita Polese, Joanne Ranger, Donnie Richards, Lori Romanetti, Gerald Russell, Tori Scott, Madisyn Smith, Brad Strawsler, Lee Anne Taylor, 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 Petruccio and Elizabeth Welch

### Special Intentions for this month:

Anonymous is having troubles with the farm's property owner.

Ashley's aunt was diagnosed with brain cancer.

Nick Boyd sustained multiple injuries in a hockey game.

Mike Deeters is undergoing chemo for throat cancer.

Sam McKee is recovering from a massive stroke.

Ross Hankins is scheduled for shoulder surgery in March.

Marilyn Hankins cancer medication is taking its toll on her body.

Sherri Hankins is still hospitalized.

Jake had carotid artery surgery.

Harold Kelley is recuperating from heart by-pass surgery.

Howard Nields has stage 4 prostate cancer.

Emily Roper has stage 4 cancer.

Please pray the family members of some of our CHHA members find peace in their lives and compassion for those around them.



157 North Main St  
Salem, NH 03079  
USA



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

Please indicate  
Address corrections

### Discounted Stallion Breedings available

Call Chaplain Lee or See list at: [www.chha.net/stallion-auction](http://www.chha.net/stallion-auction)

### Scholarships for 2017/18

The Christian Harness Horsemen's Association will be awarding two scholarships for the 2017/2018 school year.

1. John and Janet Klark Memorial Scholarship—\$1,000
2. Rambling Willie Scholarship—TBD

The scholarship application is now available at [www.chha.net](http://www.chha.net). Applications must be postmarked by April 30th.

CHHA scholarships are available to graduating high school seniors and/or students enrolled in an educational institution of higher learning. Students who demonstrate a strong commitment to their Christian faith and are involved in harness racing are encouraged to apply.



### Lyndsay Hagemeyer Off to Vet School

I would like to thank CHHA for their prayers and ongoing support through my vet school journey! In August I will be a student of the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine class of



2021. I am excited to continue my education in a way that supports my love of horses. As a past scholarship recipient, I have been blessed with the opportunity to pursue my dream of becoming a veterinarian. I look forward to combining my previous experience in the harness racing industry with veterinary medicine. CHHA has introduced me to many friends and great fellowship. After completing vet school I will continue working with the great horses and people of our industry.

*God bless you Lyndsay! We are proud of you!*

### Sam McKee Needs Your Prayers

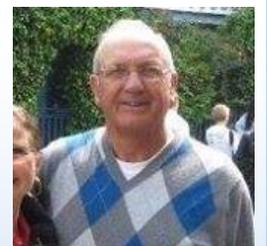


Sam McKee suffered a massive stroke January 26<sup>th</sup>. He has a long road back. However, God is listening to your prayers and Sam makes progress almost every day. Please keep the prayers coming. Please pray for his wife, Chris, and his daughters as well.

### Smile Time

*from Chaplain Sam Spence*

A young child walked up to her mother and stared at her hair. As her mother scrubbed on the dishes, the girl cleared her throat and asked, "Mom, why do you have gray hairs?"



The mother paused and looked at her daughter. "Every time you disobey, I get a strand of gray hair."

The mother returned to her task of washing dishes. The little girl stood there thinking. She cleared her throat again. "Mom?" she said.

"Yes," her mother answered.  
"Why is Grandma's hair all gray?"