



Rambling Willie

## Keeping Christ Alive in Harness Racing!

Since 1983

In God We Trust



Christian Harness Horsemen's Association Newsletter

February 2018

Remember,  
I pray for all  
our members  
every day.



*Chaplain Lee Alphen*

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### Called *By Chaplain Lee Alphen*

The marshall calls the trotters. For the next two or three minutes, horses and drivers, everything else forgotten, focus 100% on the race before them. A pitcher is hurt. The manager calls you up from the minors. Nothing in your life is more important than delivering for your team. On September 11, 2001 fire fighters and rescue personnel from around the country flocked to New York City. The nation rallied and focused on the mission to save the lost. Hurricane Harvey devastated Houston. The National Guard was called, and again the nation mobilized to help those who were struggling. The same happened in Florida with Irma and with the wild fires in California.

John the Baptist was imprisoned. Jesus came to Galilee, "Proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news" (Mark 1:14-15 NIV). As He walked along the shore, he called four men, Simon, Andrew and Zebedes's sons, James and John, to be His disciples. Immediately they left everything and followed Him (Mark 1:16-20).

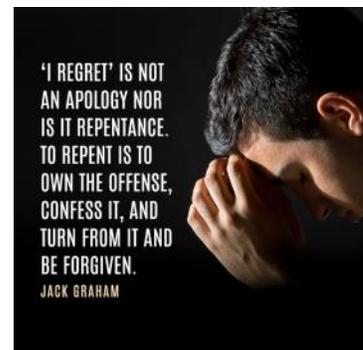
Sure, races are important. So are baseball, football and all our other sports. God gave athletes, human and equine, talents in these areas. Jesus said to "love one another" (John 13:34). It is good for us to go to the aid of sisters and brothers who are struggling. God wants us to.

The most important call we have is from God. Jesus calls us to "repent and believe in the good news" (Mark 1:15 NIV). Do we say

things that would make my grandmother want to wash our mouths out with soap? Are there things we do that we know God does not like? Are there things we know God wants us to do and we don't do them? Perhaps we've neglected our parents or other relatives or neighbors in need. Maybe we could be a little kinder to our horses. We might even want to take a fresh look at the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17). They are listed on page 2. The call of Jesus to the people in Galilee was to turn away from their sins and toward God. Jesus called them to believe His message of hope, peace, love and joy and to follow Him.

As we start out to the track, we hope to do well in the race and bring our horse back sound. We may even hope we will win the race. "Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus" (Hebrews 12:1-2 NIV). God called me to be the chaplain. God calls each of us to serve in the kingdom of God, using our unique gifts and talents.

When we focus on the message of Jesus and live lives of faith, trusting that God knows best, we have the hope of winning the race of life and living forever with God in heaven. This hope will not be disappointed (Romans 5:5).



## Blessings

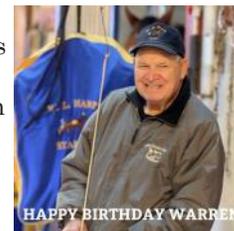
*From Larry Lederman...*

The neurosurgeon was able to remove 70% of his brain tumor using the gamma knife. Praise God! He is very grateful for your prayers. Six years ago Larry was told the tumor was inoperable and there was nothing more they could do for him. We thank God for inspiring men and women with tremendous break-throughs like the gamma-knife. Larry expects to be in rehab for a month strengthening his left arm and leg.



*From Joan Harp...*

Warren is 81 today. He is handling his cancer treatments quite well. He has 3, 2 yr old Florida breds by Rockincam that are keeping him busy and happy. Thank you for your prayers. Joan



*From Greg Gehman*

Nancy Brosey said, "I am blessed. The doctor removed the staples this week and I won't need any treatments! The cancer was contained in the tumor and has not metastasized. I have tenderness in my abdomen but the pain is not that bad. Thank you so much for the prayers."

*From Omar Aracena...*

Jordan-River was born on May 1st 2016 with a rare genetic condition called Trisomy 18. This abnormality can create physical deformities, and it is not compatible with life according to the scientific community mostly because the brain stops sending signals to the lungs to breath or because the airway is so floppy that it closes up, impeding the person to breath.



Jordan was also born with hydrocephalus, 5 holes in her heart, spinal bifida and clubbed in feet; we were told to abort her because she was not going to make it to full term. We told the doctors that that was not an option for us since we believe in the sanctity of life and that only God has the right to terminate her life. Their response was that if she makes it full term, that she was not going to live passed a few minutes. They also told us that she only had 10% of brain mass and that the stem cell that connects the brain with the spinal cord was not there; the stem cell is what controls breathing. We had no hope, we didn't event pray for her and were resigned to lose her at God's timing. They sent us to speak with the hospital's funeral director to take us through the funeral process. They bought her coffin and prepared everything for the burial. We even had a special blanket in which she was going to be buried. However God had other plans for Jordan-River.

God used the faith of our children, 12, 9 and 8 at the time to perform many miracles in her life. Those few minutes turned into few hours, and those few hours turned into few days and the hospital discharged us under hospice care and for 3 weeks Jordan lived in our house without any medical intervention. Jordan had 7 surgeries before she was 6 months old, 3 out of the 7 were major surgeries but she is here with us and on May 1, 2018 she will be 2 years old for the Glory of God!

**Omar's Specific Prayer Request for his daughter**

1. For her brain to develop normally, including its wrinkles

2. For the shunt to work well her entire life
3. For her head, and especially her forehead to take its normal shape
4. For her face to look normal, including her mouth.
5. For her vision to be 20/20
6. For her ears to hear clearly
7. For her body to grow stronger, especially her internal organs, airways, lungs and heart.
8. For her floppiness to cease
9. For her to breathe through her nose permanently.
10. For her to eat through her mouth
11. For there to be no need of vent, trach, monitor, oxygen or any other artificial machines
12. For the holes in her heart to close and heal
13. For her feet to be normal
14. For her to be able to walk

*Omar Aracena is Operations Director for the Racetrack Chaplaincy of America, an organization that works with thoroughbred chaplains .*



Marker in front of Dixie County Courthouse  
Supplied by common.wikimedia.org

Please verify or add address on back

Please activate my FREE membership. My address is on the back.

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please pray for my intentions \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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Please return to: lecalphen@comcast.net

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Salem, NH 03079

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

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**Gifts**

10 Rambling Willie Note Cards (see picture)

CHHA hat  **New Item Blue hat with CHHA Logo**



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

**Books**

Downloading God by Jack Levine

Live A Life That Matters for God by Jack Levine

My Addict Your Addict by Jack Levine

Where the Rubber Meets the Road with God by Jack Levine

Don't Blow It With God by Jack Levine

Sound Mouth—Sound Horse, The Gager Method of Equine Care



Dental

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 \[www.chha.net/products\]\(http://www.chha.net/products\)](#)

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

**Janette Hughes**, 64, of Columbus, OH, died Jan 8. Janette enjoyed working for Wal-Mart for 19 years. She was a homebody, who appreciated the simple life. She was a loving and caring wife and mother, she cherished time spent with her son, Charlie. Janette's husband, harness horseman, Dallis Hughes, passed away in 2012.

**Jay Lewis Laing**, 2, of Columbus, OH, died Dec 28. He was a very sweet, caring, well-mannered and high-spirited young boy. He always had the biggest smile on his face and was full of so much love. He was an active youth member of the USTA and enjoyed travelling to the Ohio county fairs as the Weller Stables' official mascot and bucket scrubber. He always loved helping in the barn and would walk to all 11 stall doors and say "Good morning, neighs." He would light up with pride with the joke of them being called Little Jay's Neighs.



**Pam Miller**, 75, died Dec 24. She was in harness racing her entire life, most notably as program director for 15 years at Freehold Raceway. She also worked at Pompano Park, Wheeling Downs, Los Alamitos, and retired from Raceway Park after 16 years in 2008.

**William Mulligan**, 87, a longtime Standardbred owner and breeder, died Dec 18. William, the breeder of 2016 Hambletonian champion Marion Marauder, owned nearly 300 horses in his career and was the breeder of more than 200. In 1965, William bought his first farm; a 65-acre spread, in Danville, PA and named it Marion Far. In 1996, when he was at the end of his career as an executive with Ingersoll Rand, he bought another farm in New Hope, PA.

**Elaine Parlin**, 60, of Turner, ME, died Sep 19. She and her husband, Ivan "Buddy" Parlin, owned and operated Novus Windshield Repair in North Turner, receiving many awards. Elaine was a member and a Deacon of the North Turner Union Prebysterian Church. She was also a CHHA Prayer Partner.



**William Glessner Paull**, DVM, 77, of Powell, OH, died Dec 30. In addition to serving as the track veterinarian at Scioto Downs, he managed a private equine practice. In 1986 Dr. Paull and his wife, Barbara, bought 65 acres in southern Delaware County and established Timber Rock Farm which served as one of the leading equine reproductive and boarding centers in Ohio. He loved being outside on a tractor and worked tirelessly to maintain his beautiful property and care for the countless horses that he treated over the years. The Paulls also owned many outstanding racehorses.



**Peter "Pete" Edward Richardson**, 67, of Salisbury, MD, died Dec 14. Pete bred and owned Standardbreds. For 40 years he owned and operated Pete Richardson Auction Sales in Willards. He credited much of his success to his dedicated team of employees. He was also an avid hunter, fisherman, and Clemson Tiger fan.



**John Jennings "Jack" Stockman**, 94, of Pompano Beach, died Dec 5. Jack was a successful businessman in harness racing. In the early 1960's he moved his family to Pompano Beach, FL, and, for many years he owned and operated The Harness Supply company at both The Meadows and Pompano Park. When his children were young, he coached and refereed youth basketball. He was active and a strong member of their family church. And boy did he love to golf. Among his most prized possessions were the two green jackets in his bedroom closet that he wore home after winning the Club Master at the Pompano Beach Men's Golf Association in 2009 and 2010.

**Francis J. Tierney**, 97, of Chesapeake City, MD, died Dec 12. Francis was ordained a Catholic priest in 1945 and served at many Maryland churches during his career. He also served as Captain and Chaplain in the Delaware National Guard. After retiring from active ministry, he was laicized and in 1976 married Carol Gerstenberg. Together, Francis and Carol settled in Chesapeake City where they bred, trained and raced harness horses.



**George 'Butch' Ward**, 78, of Charlottetown, PEI, died May 3. Butch was the longtime paddock judge at Red Shores Racetrack & Casino at Charlottetown Driving Park and had the respect of the entire Standardbred community.

"Dependability, credibility, ability to get along with anyone," said senior judge Roger DesRoches of Ward. "The horsemen love him. He's always been well-respected by the racing fraternity. I don't think I've ever had a complaint." He was the subject of a *Trot* feature in March 2016.



**Gary Alan Warner**, 52, died Dec 14. Gary's grandfather, Pat Provenzano, introduced pari-mutuel harness racing in western New York when he opened Batavia Downs in 1941 and it became a family business. Gary was the admissions director at Batavia Downs for many years where one of his favorite parts of the profession was greeting patrons, most of whom he knew by name. After his tenure at Batavia Downs he moved to Palm Desert, CA to pursue a career in the golf industry. He became the Director of Corporate Tournaments at PGA West. His passions included family, friends and the Pittsburgh Steelers.

## Obituaries

**Francis R Bond**, 86, died Dec 26. "Franny" who began boxing while in the Marines, continued to fight professionally in the Golden Gloves after he left the service under the name Bobby Bond. Franny first got involved in harness racing in 1966 and eventually got his trainer and driver's licenses. He ran a small stable racing at Batavia and Buffalo for the next 39 years. He owned a soft drink distributorship, ran the track kitchen at Batavia Downs and sold hay, straw and feed for many years.

**Fred Cohen**, 66, died Dec 14 after a lengthy battle with cancer. Fred's career stretched over more than four decades in which he visited the winner's circle on 703 occasions. Though he also drove--sparingly--he piloted well over 185 winners, with his last one earlier this year with Thekeptman in a Florida Amateur Driving Club event. "I love that club," he recently remarked, "Because they do so much good for so many people."

**Samuel M Camarata**, 79, of Rochester, NY, died Dec 24. Early on, he developed a love of harness racing after regularly attending Roosevelt and Yonkers Raceway while working in New York City. He later started the Cam Car Stable that featured most of his horses using the Cam Car



## 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, Paul Fontaine, Pastor Bill Grant, Margaret Groce, Remi Gunn, Marilyn Hankins, Warren Harp, Rose Hennessey, Morris Hoagland, Glenda Holloway, Jeff Hurst, Betty James, Rita Jacobs, Bob Kinsey, Donnie Knight, David Kovach, Larry Lederman, Rox Liles, Ricky Macomber, Nelson Malin, Wilma Mattuci, Joyceann McClelland, Donna Mclvor, Mrs. Miller, Frank Mirahmadi, Lalya Mosley, Corey Murphy, Howard Niels, Pierre Noel, Jay O'Neil, John Panetta, Dee Parsons, Margie Polhamus, Leigh Raymer, Robyn Rembleski, Emily Roper, Daren Richner, Taila Kapo Rinski, Del Smart, Elaina Storlazi, Doug Stringer, Jack Taylor, Carrie Thompson, Gary Tyron, Fred Ward Sr., Roland Wardel, Marty Woebkenberg, Maddy Wright, Joyce Zeasapolowski

**These friends are also in need of our ongoing prayers:**

Jason Apperti, Jordan Aracena, Chaplain Kelly Blanton, Ken Bartels, Pleasant Batson, Gary Bennett, Peter Blood, Marilyn Bondon, Stephanie Bouchard, Danny Breton, Kevin Burns, Mary Burton, Carol Ann Case, Thelma Chrisman, Mary Clements, Joan Collins, Anthony Coletta, Bev Crane, Karen Crothers, Dale, Jim Ferguson, Melanie Fisk, Sylvain Gagnon, Greg Gehman, Dr. Howard Gill, Bob Goth, Barbara and Brent Graham, Debbie Gray, Bob Hilliard, Bob Jones, Ruby Hensley, Miguel Hernandez, Paul and

surname. Samuel was a retired postmaster who coached Little League baseball and Pop Warner football.

**Danny Lee Davidson**, 64, of Pinckney, MI, died Dec 26. Danny worked for 10 years at Michigan Sugar in Caro as a boiler house operator before becoming a self-employed harness horse trainer and driver, a career and passion that lasted more than 40 years. His spare time was spent hunting for pheasant and deer, and he shot the biggest buck of his life earlier this year. He was proud of his farm and took meticulous care of it and his horses.



**Joe Foley** died Dec 29. Joe began his harness racing career at Blue Bonnets working for Percy Robillard later becoming a trainer and driver. In the late 1970's, Joe moved to the Meadowlands where he trained top trotter, Glencoe Pride, for Percy. In the early 2000's he went to work in the maintenance department at the Big M until disability set in.

**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)

Mrs. Hershey, Carol Heusinkveld, Jerry Hissam, John Hostler, Jason Hughes, Jesse Hughes, Donna Ingram, Don James, Kenny Kane, Barbara Kinsey, Thelma Klark, Michael Klark, Art LaPlante, Larry Lawter, Sam Lilli, Katherine Lonager, 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 Peternel, Rita Polese, Noreen Paulen, Art Plant, Joanne Ranger, Donnie Richards, Lori Romanetti, 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 John Beauregard, Joshua Hankins, Yann Lamiqu, Chris Petruzzo, Sgt. David Thomas, and Elizabeth Welch

**Special Intentions for this month:**

Tom Girvin is at the VA with Parkinsons, pneumonia and sepsis.

Barb Jenkins is hospitalized with dementia and pneumonia.

Larry Leaderman is recovering from brain surgery.

Lynn was diagnosed with Non Hodgkins Lymphoma.

Margie Polhamus had a rough time after her surgery, and the surgeon said he did not like the looks of her pancreas and liver. She still needs prayer.

Jeff Hurst is undergoing chemo for small lesions in his brain.

Ray Levay has congestive heart failure.



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USA



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

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Address corrections

## A Good Worming *by Chaplain Sam Ed Spence*

Now and then you will have a horse that doesn't shed off his winter coat as fast as he should, or maybe he's just not as perky as he needs to be. Chances are pretty good that this horse needs a good worming. He's probably got those old parasites on the inside of him that are interfering with his various systems and preventing him from achieving his true potential. So, you go to the store and buy a syringe of wormer, or you have the vet "tube him." And pretty soon, that old pony is back on track.



Not too long ago I found myself going through some "mullygrubbs." There were some circumstances not lining up like I wanted them to, and I was letting them give me an attitude. In fact, my wife informed me that I (with my long face) was not much fun to be around. Her comment didn't help any, but at least I decided to go to the Lord with my problem.

On the way to the track the next morning, He came through loud and clear: "Sam, you just need a good worming!" He immediately showed me the parasites on my insides that were robbing me of my joy, peace, faith, and ultimate success. Doubt, unbelief, worry, and concern were eating away at me. I was a prime candidate for a good tubing with God's Word.

When I got to the office, I immediately repented and got out my Bible. Incidentally, *repent* simply means "changing the way you think in order to go in a different direction." I realized I hadn't been in the Word much lately, and was immediately impressed to go to the book of Romans and read our scripture below.

Sometimes you can be familiar with a passage, but don't know exactly where it is in the Bible. I was needing a good dose of joy, so I went to the concordance and found *Nehemiah 8:12*. . . "for the joy of the Lord is your strength." I chewed on (meditated) those verses off and on throughout the morning. In fact, I'm sure some of the backside thought the chaplain had gone plumb senile

between the shedrows and was talking to himself (which I was).

But it worked. By the end of the day I did not have one mullygrub to contend with, and a smile began to work its way into my countenance, which my wife even noticed when I got home from the track. And, amazingly, the adverse circumstances began to change within two days of my "positive meditation". . . all because of a good worming.

**Scripture:** So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. *Romans 10:17*

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

### Memorial Contributions

In memory of **Doug Ackerman** by: Paul and Bonnie Battis  
In memory of **Sharron Adams** by: Albert Adams  
In memory of **Joe Adamsky** by: Melinda Bailey  
In memory of **Ron Battis** by: Paul and Bonnie Battis  
In memory of **Donnie Conrad** by: Roselea Conrad  
In memory of **John Daley** by: Paul and Bonnie Battis  
In memory of **Don "Gabby" Gabarino** by: Paul and Bonnie Battis  
In memory of **Sherie Hankins** by: Kim Hankins and Michael and Eva Cotton  
In memory of **John and Janet Klark** by: Craig Holterman  
In memory of **Gary Luft** by: Paul and Bonnie Battis  
In memory of **Harry Pownall** by: Paul and Bonnie Battis  
In memory of **Sally Stancil** by: CHHA The Meadows  
In memory of **Bill Wick** by: Susan Throm-White  
In memory of **Andy Wood** by: Ken and Betsy Wood