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JANUARY 2025



The PTHA POST serves as our monthly newsletter for horsemen. In the newsletter you will find updates, important reminders, and all kinds of fun here at the Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association.



PTHA Main Office 215-638-2012



J. 17 2025

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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THIS MONTH

PTHA President's Corner, Robert Hutt

Update from Executive Director Jeffrey A. Matty, Jr.

Around the Oval

Horsemen's Awards Nominations

Holiday Season At Parx

2024 Horsemen's Awards RSVP

PTHA Christmas Party

Attention Trainers

PTHA Trophy Race Winners

Turning For Home Update

Heartbeat of the Backstretch

HPA

Condolences

CONTACT US

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SPECIAL THANK YOU

EQUI-PHOTO

PTHA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

PTHA PRESIDENT Robert "Bob" Hutt



As 2024 fades away into our rear view mirrors and a New Year begins I prefer to look forward toward a brighter and sunny future. To say the least, 2024 was a very tumultuous year in many ways as there's no need to rehash it in this column. Just know that I was duly elected to represent all of you the 2,500 hardworking wonderful PARX horsemen. I plan to do just that with every ounce of my being! If I see injustice I will call it out as I will never sweep anything under the rug as a few prefer that I do. I plan on holding many General Meetings as you deserve the opportunity to have your voices heard. You are not alone as I ran on a platform of full transparency and have kept my word. Our PTHA Bylaws permit and encourage your Advisory Committee to sit in and attend our Board meetings which I'm proud to say that we have enacted.

On a sad note our turf course presented many problems this past year. Out of adversity I am pleased to announce that we've had very encouraging ongoing conversations with Senior Management at PARX Casino, our partner, who has pledged total support and cooperation in fixing the turf course. Under consideration is repairing, replacing, or even eliminating the turf course and installing an all year round Tapeta (Poly Turf). It's very refreshing in that both PARX Casino Senior Management and your PTHA both want to make PARX the shining star in the MidAtlantic region!

Toward that goal there is continued dialogue in evaluating each other's AI data to explore the many different ways to increase field size which will lead to increased parimutuel revenues as well as larger purses for you the PARX horsemen. I'm proud to announce that we're exploring a virtual Condition Book that owners, trainers, and the Racing Office can all point to with confidence for a specific race. It used to take the NFL six months to make up their schedule. Today using AI data it takes them 15 minutes. There is absolutely no reason why AI data can't do the same for all the horsemen at PARX which will lead to increased field size, larger revenue streams, as well as eliminate any need for more than a few extra races. In this day and age ninety-three percent of all successful businesses all use AI data. We need to leave the Stone Age behind if we are to grow our industry and be successful. I'm proud that under my leadership your PTHA Board voted to engage in using AI data just like our partner the casino who relies heavily on data to run their successful business. We need to do the same.

In the next few months I'm very excited as the casino and your PTHA will combine our collective data to promote racing as we hope to bring in many new fans to both the racetrack and casino as we are partners, not competitors. Yes indeed our future looks very bright. There are many new good things on my agenda for 2025 that hopefully will bring you even greater prosperity. You can always find me on the frontside as I am always approachable. Your problems are my problems as that's why I ran for President. If you have an idea or suggestion please never hesitate to let me know. You are never alone as it's my honor, as well as my duty, to represent and serve you.

In closing, from all of us at the PTHA, to all of you and your loved ones, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Healthy & Happy New Year! Together let's strive to make all our hopes and dreams come true. Wishing you many trips to the Winner's Circle in 2025.

Goming in 2025

PENNSYLVANIA **YEARLING SHOW!**



WHERE:

Brandywine Polo Club 232 Polo Road, Toughkenamon, PA 19374

WHEN:

Saturday, June 21st 2025, from 10:00am to 3:00pm

Four classes featuring PA-Sired males and fillies and Non-PA-Sired males and fillies

Prizes and trophies available in each class!

\$50 entry fee before June 1st, \$75 late entry fee after June 1st

Stay tuned for more details and sponsorship opportunities!



PENNSYLVANIA HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Please contact our office at

610.444.1050

with any questions

HORSEMEN Update from PTHA Executive Director

Happy New Year to you and your families! As we turn the page into 2025, we have a lot to look forward to and build upon here within our PTHA program. On-track, we will remain constant with 49 weeks of Live-Racing action, highlighted by PA Derby Day, Owners Appreciation Day, Smarty Jones Day, & PA Day at The Races. These days, combined with daily competitive purses offered every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, make up our Live-Racing cards for the year.

Mark your calendars, Pennsylvania Derby Day is Saturday, September 20th. Please continue to check in with our office on special event days, family-fun days, golf outing dates, promotional giveaway days, and even added race days as we get through the first few weeks of 2025.

The sole purpose of the PTHA is to represent the horsemen. In doing so, we act as your collective voice. With that said, sometimes there comes a point in time when members have different priorities, viewpoints, perspective, or agenda items. This can be a positive, if approached the correct way through communication and teamwork. I, along with our team and board, are always available for conversations or meetings.



PTHA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jeffrey A. Matty Jr.

We very much look forward to working for, and working with you, throughout all of 2025.

Thank you for allowing us to represent you, Happy New Year!

AROUND THE OVAL by Dani Gibson

WINTER RACING FESTIVAL AT PARX RACING



GLOBAL STEVE WON THE \$75,000 PARX FUTURE STARS

Jockey Mychel Sanchez rode the 2 year old colt for trainer Butch Reid, Jr., owners Cash Is King LLC & LC Racing LLC

HOLLYWOOD BEAUTY WON THE \$75,000 PARX FUTURE STARS FILLY DIVISION

Trainer Marya Montoya & jockey Mychel Sanchez accept the trophy for owner Albert Lupcho, Jr.





\$100,000 WAIT FOR IT STAKES WAS WON BY FENTON FOREVER

Jockey Kendrick Carmouche with the winning owner/breeder Desmond Wynter & trainer Tyler Servis

\$100,000 MISS BEHAVIOUR STAKES WINNER HONORABLE WIN

Owned & Bred by Pewter Stable for trainer Kate DeMasi with jockey Eliseo Ruiz riding



AROUND THE OVAL by Dani Gibson

WINTER RACING FESTIVAL AT PARX RACING

\$75,000 KRIS KRINGLE STAKES WINNER OFFALY COOL

with winning connections accepting their trophy for owner Lawrence Rebbecchi, Jr., jockey Abner Adorno & trained by Jacinto Solis.





\$75,000 BLITZEN STAKES

was won by Nelson Avenue for trainer Wayne Potts, owner Photos Finish LLC & jockey Jose Lezcano

\$75,000 MRS CLAUS STAKES

was won by Irish Maxima for trainer John Servis, jockey Frankie Pennington for owner Irish-Three Racing LLC



HORSEMEN:

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR 2024 YEAR-END AWARDS.
PLEASE CALL OR STOP IN THE PTHA OFFICE TO NOMINATE HORSES AND TRAINERS WITH DANI
GIBSON. NOMINATIONS CLOSE ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 16TH

Voting Categories: *Horse of The Year *Trainer Of The Year *2-Year Old Female *2-Year Old Male *3-Year Old Male *Older Female *Older Male *Claiming Horse

HOLIDAY SEASON AT PARX

CHRISTMAS DINNER



SPONSORED BY





parxracing®

RON'S BACKSTRETCH CAFE hosted a Christmas Dinner for the backstretch community here at PARX. The well attended event was sponsored by the PTHA in participation with PARX Racing. Thank you to all those who helped make this year's event another joyous occasion!







2024 HORSEMEN'S AWARDS

saturday february 15 2025

CELEBRATIONS
2201 GALLOWAY RD.
BENSALEM, PA 19020
5:30 PM - 10:00 PM

Please RSVP by 1/31/25 to vmangini@patha.org or ... call the PTHA Office at 215-638-2012

Tickets: \$35.00

PTHA CHRISTMAS PARTY

CANDY CANE COUNT



The jar of candy canes went to the party attendee with the closest guess to how many were in the candy jar. The winner was Adriane McGriff-Armstrong with her guess of 123.



123 was the exact number so she was the winner with a perfect guess. Congratulations!















UGLY SWEATER CONTEST

Lots of great
contestants in the 2024
Ugly Sweater contest.
In the end trainer
Jamie Ness won the
contest with a very
ugly but funny
sweater!































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INFORMATION

YOU CAN ALSO SIGN UP FOR TEXT ALERTS ON THE WEBSITE IF YOU HAVEN'T DONE SO



ATTENTION TRAINERS

Trainers, please stop in the PTHA office to update ALL Employee benefits list, for 2025. This allows us to continue helping all our backstretch employees with their medical and dental needs.

COMING SOON



WHEELS ON US

A NEW PTHA CHARITIES PROGRAM
IN COORDINATION WITH BENSALEM
TOWNSHIP WILL BEGIN IN 2025.
MORE DETAILS SOON!

















PTHA TROPHY RACE DECEMBER 2024

DECEMBER 3

Photo Credit: EQUI-PHOTO



Wiki Lio

Owner **Top Notch Racing** **Trainer**

Jockey Michael Moore Andy Hernandez

DECEMBER 10

Photo Credit: EQUI-PHOTO



Son of Thor

Owner Uptowncharlybrown Stud, LLC

Trainer Ed Coletti, Jr.

Jockey Frankie Pennington

DECEMBER 17

Photo Credit: EQUI-PHOTO



Harp's Hot Corner

Owner Madison Avenue Racing Stable, Morris Kernan, Jr. & Jagger Inc.

Trainer Jamie Ness

Jockey Mychel Sanchez

DECEMBER 31

Photo Credit: PTHA



Supreme Law

Owner **Madison Avenue Racing** Stable, Morris Kernan, Jr. & Jagger Inc.

Trainer Jamie Ness

<u>Jockey</u> **Mychel Sanchez**



Danielle Montgomery

Program Administrator



2024 Year End Summary

Happy New Year! As our horses all turn another year older, we're reminded of the strength, grace, and determination it takes to race through life's challenges. Here's to a 2025 filled with joy, health, and boundless opportunities! PTHA's Turning for Home, Inc. (TFH) remains steadfast in our mission to ensure every one of our retired racehorses transitions into a safe, loving, and purposeful home. This year, we've achieved significant milestones thanks to our supportive owners, who entrust us with the rehabilitation, retraining, and rehoming of their horses with the help of an incredibly hard-working network of Partner Farms.

A Year of Impact

TFH's commitment to the care and placement of retired racehorses was underscored by managing over \$1.14 million in total expenses, with 90% of every dollar going directly to program services—a testament to our dedication and efficiency.

Program Expenses: \$1,026,000 (90% of total expenses)

- Horse Care Expenses: \$870,000
- Direct Program Salaries: \$117,000
- Program Sponsorships and Promotions: \$25,000
- Program Professional Fees: \$15,000
- Average Total Program Horse Care Costs: Rose slightly to \$2,500, below current Aftercare rates and reflecting increased costs for veterinary services, castrations, transportation, and rehabilitation.

Our unwavering dedication to each horse's well-being ensures they are given every opportunity to find a second career, supported by a dedicated system of Veterinarians, Trainers, Surgeons, Dentists, Farriers, Therapists, Shippers, and Volunteers and is reflected by low euthanasia rates. This year, thanks to increased take-out from purses, TFH was able to save three pneumonia cases, intervene in colics and sick horses on the backstretch to send them to the clinic, help neurological horses recover, and extend over a month of hospital care to our own Johnny Ritt who is now adoptable to a safe pasture home at New Beginnings Thoroughbreds.



New Beginnings Thoroughbreds stepped up to help save Johnny Ritt after TFH was called in. Thanks to increased financial support, TFH could send Johnny Ritt to the Mid-Atlantic Equine Medical Center for care when he could not stand due to a wrenched back following a fall during his last race. This would been a tough decision in prior years, but he is happy now.



Administrative Expenses: \$38,000 (3% of total expenses)

- Streamlined operations kept administrative costs minimal, directing more resources to horse care.
- Additional staff have improved vital follow-up so owners can see more of what their horses are doing and strengthened communication with our adopters.

Fundraising Expenses: \$73,000 (7% of total expenses)

• Efficient fundraising strategies actually raised income for our program and allowed us to expand our Outreach, from the Golf Outing, the All Thoroughbred Showdown, the Retired Racehorse Project, and our community outreach tables where TFH swag is readily available. Support from racing owners, jockeys, the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association, PTHA, Parx Racing Management, donors, Partner Farm Managers and volunteers played a critical role in meeting our budgetary needs.



Caring for Our Retirees:

Since our founding in 2008, TFH has offered safe retirement to over 4,360 horses, including a record 337 horses in 2024—47 of which entered the program in October alone. We have successfully prevented Parx horses from entering the slaughter pipeline.

m the

Placement Highlights:

- TFH facilitated \$670,000 in placement fees, relocations, rescues, rehabilitation, and transportation through partnerships with 30 experienced and approved farms, ensuring each horse the opportunity to find a suitable new home.
- New partner farms, including TD Equine (PA), Seahorse Stables (NJ), and Gwin Equestrian (KY), expanded our network and provided new outlets for Thoroughbreds across the region.

We are especially proud of our industry-leading lifetime relocation guarantee, which allows every horse to return to the nearest farm and ensures there is no excuse for them to end up in harmful situations.

Veterinary Care

In 2024, we invested over \$190,000 in surgeries, veterinary care, and screenings, mostly through a partnership for great discounted rates at The Mid-Atlantic Equine Medical Center, reaffirming our mission to provide safe second careers for our horses and, at the least, every chance to find a home. These surgeon-advised interventions often make all the difference in providing a second chance at a performance career and allow our well-bred athletes to transition into Sporthorse careers. TFH also covers the costs of castrations for all colts (34 this year), taking the burden from owners and ensuring timely transitions that save on day rates. We commend our trainers and owners who retire their horses responsibly, supporting proactive horse care that contributes to a demand for our athletes and strengthens our Industry.

Community Support and Fundraising

TFH's community events raised awareness and spotlighted our horses while supporting our mission:

- Events Revenue: Surpassed projections, creating new connections and opportunities for engagement through the Farm Show, Horseworld Expo, PTHA Golf Outing, TFH Day, RRP Makeover, and the all-new All Thoroughbred Showdown.
- Merchandise Sales: Generated \$5,800, thanks to our incredible volunteers at Parx tables, golf outings, and expos.

Our social media platforms continued to grow, with over 10,000 followers on Facebook and Instagram, helping us share success stories and connect with potential adopters.

Looking Ahead to 2025

As we move forward, TFH is committed to:

- Optimizing Expenses: Targeting a 5% reduction in operational costs while maintaining high care standards.
- Enhancing Fundraising: Launching a TFH newsletter and strengthening our website's digital fundraising and merchandise store.
- Building New Partnerships: Collaborating with the rapeutic riding centers and like-minded farms to create additional placement opportunities and offset some rehab costs.

Thank You

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the owners, jockeys, trainers, horsemen, veterinarians, shippers, caretakers, adopters, and partner farms who believe in our mission, as well as the PTHA Horsemen and staff, PHBA, Let's Go Racing, and the Parx Racing community. Special thanks go to the PTHA Board Members, President Bob Hutt, and Executive Director Jeff Matty, Jr., for their leadership and unwavering support.

Together, we are creating brighter futures for retired racehorses—one step at a time. Here's to continuing this vital work in 2025 and beyond. - *Thank you for allowing me to help your horses for the last decade - Dani*



An open letter to Midnight:

Sharing a piece of fan mail from one of our favorite adopters and ambassadors from Safe Haven Equine JC - Star Of Midnight

My Dearest Darling Delinquent,

Let me start by saying I love you greatly, you are stunning and your enthusiasm for life is infectious. However like with many overly positive starts to a paragraph there is a but coming, and here it is, BUT we need to discuss when is an appropriate time for tanking off.

You started life on the race track, where you were supposed to earn your keep by going fast, except you mostly did not. You could have been famous like your nearly identical half-sister Midnight Bisou, who won \$14 million and is now living in luxury. Except you are not; instead, you are stuck with me. You managed to interspace wins and places with losing by 30 lengths. This dichotomy suggests that sometimes you chose not to tank off at a time that would have been very appropriate to do so.

You have, however, subsequently decided it is appropriate to go fast in a few locations that make me question your decision making skills. Example one, the dressage ring, this is not the time nor the place, please I beg of you. Example two, and the trigger for this letter, towards the dog walker, the adorable puppy and the crowd of hikers whilst I asked you to stop, with increasing levels of insistence, ranging from polite to hopefully there are no children around to hear what I just said. (We did stop in good time and were greeted by an excited puppy and the laughter of the people who heard my yelling.)





In summary:

Appropriate places for galloping: The racetrack (this would have made a number of people happy) Cross country (not downhill into skinnies, I know you are going to jump them but it is terrifying.) Inappropriate:
The dressage ring
Downhill into skinnies
Towards dog walkers whilst I frantically
try to stop you (actually anywhere while I
am trying to stop you)



All my love and upper body strength,

(No dog walkers were harmed in the making of this post and I am careful to only gallop on trails with appropriate footing and good sight lines so that I am not going to run anyone over.)

(I) Have a video of her jumping 1.45m/4' 9" out of a badly set combination as a demonstration of one of the many reasons I put up with her antics.







Jockey: <u>Abner.</u>
Trainer: <u>J. Guadalupe Guerrero</u>
Owner: <u>John W. Loyle</u>

Breeder: White Fox Farms

BUYER / CONSIGNOR (MOST RECENT): Sold to Stephen Screnci Consigned by Taylor Made Sales Agency

				CAREER STATISTICS*
Starts	Firsts	Seconds	Thirds	Earnings
33	2	0	11	\$68,830
	_	•		****





Turning for Home Horse updates



Smokey the Firecat (NY)

CH, C, foaled February 15, 2021 (Free Drop Billy -Accelebrate, by Northern Afleet) Trainer: Carlos Guerrero Owner: Ten Strike Racing Breeder: TLC Thoroughbreds LLC

Smokey the Firecat retired this past year from Ten Strike Racing's barn. After being treated for EPM he made a great recovery and is now reloved by his adopter Mel. His kind nature made him a great fit to add to their family!





Word On a Wing (PA)

B, G, foaled April 16, 2016 (Winchill - Merry's Pegasus, by Fusaichi Pegasus) Trainer: Scott A. Lake Owner: Donald L. Brown Breeder: Pewter Stable

After an impressive 5+ year career and almost \$350,000 in earnings, this Pewter Stables Homebred ius adjusting well to post track life! He has been rehabbed and restarted by TFH Partner Farm, Krysta Nesbit in snowy New Hampshire.





Ardean (PA)

GR/RO, M, foaled January 13, 2019 (Midnight Storm - Terri's Pass, by War Pass) Trainer: Leslye G. Bouchard Owner: Leslye G. Bouchard Breeder: James & Janeane Everatt & Arika Everatt-Meeuse



Since being adopted in February of 2023 Ardean has become quite the ambassador for retired racehorses in the Sporthorse world. This charming grey mare has excelled in the Jockey Club TIP classes and has also dedicated lesson time to young riders! Ardean is one of few TFH Alum with adopter Jessica, who also owns Calculated Breeze, West Virginia Gal, Bold N' Naughty, Frisky Feeling, Austin Whylie, Admiral Eastwood, and Bellita!



Zensational Dixie (KY)

TB, CH, M, foaled April 7, 2016 (Stay Thirsty - Prowling, by Lion Heart) Trainer: Melecio Saldana Guerrero Owner: Melecio Saldana Guerrero Breeder: Randal Family Trust, R David & Marylyn A Randal Trustees

Zensational Dixie enjoys her spoiled, retired life in Ne w Jersey with adopter Meredith. When Meredith started taking lessons on Dixie from previous adopter, Kristina, she fell in love and knew that Dixie had to be hers! The pair enjoy taking lessons, rides around the farm, and costumed barn party shows!



2024 Turning for Home Alum Updates



Pastiche

Thunder Duke

Black Diamond Rain Vancouver D'oro

Royal Blue Boy

Chasing Cash

Heartbeat of the Backstretch By: Nikki Guzman

Broadcaster and author Vernon McLellan has a quote that states, "What the new year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year". This year, let us continue to work together to encourage one another, to be kinder and more compassionate, and to acknowledge the wonderful influence that each of us can have on others.

Many people assist others in the background, yet even if their work is essential to operations, some others might not see or recognize it. Equally, or more importantly, it is critical to recognize the worth of the individuals who work in all of these positions.



Liz Daniels, who grew up in Philadelphia, had various jobs, including working at an umbrella factory, before being introduced to the racetrack by her boyfriend. She had never worked with horses before, but she needed money to pay her bills, so she took on the job as a hotwalker. She was loyal to the trainers who had given her the opportunity and would remain with them until they chose to leave PARX. Liz liked how there were so many options at PARX to pick up extra jobs and earn money. She eventually started cleaning stalls for other trainers, became a dorm room rep, and even got a job working on the front side.

These days, you can find her in the Rec Hall washing and folding up to 8 loads of horse laundry for many trainers here at PARX. She offers pick-up and delivery to the barns in addition to doing laundry, which is a crucial service on the backstretch. As a result, the grooms and trainers have more time to devote to the horses. Although most people don't love doing laundry, Liz finds that it allows her to interact with others and still be a useful part of the backstretch community. Her reliability is invaluable for many of our trainers, and it is greatly appreciated!

This year, try one thing. When you meet someone who does a job that is different from yours, ask them a question that shows your interest in their line of work, and then acknowledge or appreciate what they do.

You just might make their day a little brighter.

HORSEMEN'S PURCHASING ASSOCIATION







FOR ALL YOUR RACING NEEDS AT PARX
RACING, INCLUDING BEDDING, FEED,
EQUIPMENT, SUPPLEMENTS, SUPPLIES
AND MORE!

STORE HOURS

Race Days 8 am to 4:30 pm Th.-Fr. 8 am to 4 pm Sat. 8 am to 2:30 pm

Feed trailers open until 1 pm Ice House open until 2 pm on Race Days

CONTACT US:

Diane Day HPA Manager 267-223-3140 dday@patha.org



OUR CONDOLENCES

WILLIAM J. ZAMENSKY

William J. Zamensky, age 82, of North Hanover Twp, N.J. formerly of Columbus, N.J. passed away on Thursday, December 12, 2024 at the Deborah Heart Lung Center in Browns Mills, N.J.

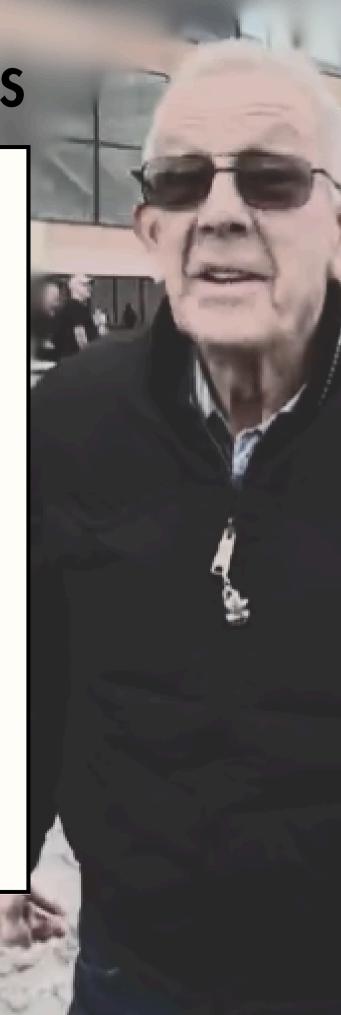
Born In Mount Holly, N.J. he lived most of his life In Columbus and Bordentown, N.J. before moving to North Hanover Township a few years ago. Bill was the son of the late Joseph and Ada (Potts) Zamensky.

Bill worked in maintenance at Fort Dix Army Base (now the Joint Bases) for many years before his retirement. He loved and owned horses and horse racing and spent a lot of time at the track.

Bill was a member at the Bordentown Elks for many years. He loved singing and going to karaoke events where he made many friends. He was predeceased by his brother, Franklin D. Zamensky, Sr. in May of this year and a long-time high school friend, Arnie Craft, Jr. in September of this year.

Bill is survived by his siblings, Larry Zamensky and his wife, Barbara, Betty Ann Ross, Ellen Nutt and her husband, husband, Vernon, Lois Zamensky, Sam Zamensky and his wife, Jane, and Ilene Simonini and her husband, Harry and a sister-in-law, Rose Zamensky. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews and another long-time high school friend, James Hunt.

In keeping with his wishes, there will be no services held.



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Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association

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SEE YOU IN THE WINNER'S CIRCLE!