

veterinarian, was elected ROAP secretary; and **Kristin Leshney**, senior counsel at The Jockey Club, was re-elected treasurer.

Fick, the newly appointed chair, extends a thank-you to Hugh Gallagher for his service to ROAP as chairman over the past six years. Gallagher will remain as a ROAP director.

At the meeting, the University of Kentucky's Ag Equine department was added as a member organization on the ROAP board and selected Dr. Camie Heleski as its representative.

THE FLORIDA STANDARD BRED Breeders and Owners Association (FSBOA) recently conducted their annual meeting and welcomed newly elected director **Steve Oldford** to the board.

Oldford, a longtime harness racing breeder, owner, trainer, amateur driver, and USTA director, joins fellow USTA Director **Joe Pennacchio**, who was re-elected as president; **Christine Garrity** and USTA Director **Dein Spriggs**, who will serve as first and second vice president, respectively; **George Birkhold**, re-elected as treasurer; **Richard Dunmire**, secretary; and board members **Laurie Poulin**, **Jay Sears**, **Jake Huff**, **Jim McDonald**, **Mickey McNichol**, **Dave Ingraham**, **Peter Blood**, and **Jerry Glantz**.

The FSBOA is in the first year of a three-year contract and sponsors the lucrative Florida stakes program, highlighted by the Sunshine Stakes, Florida Breeders Stakes, and Melvyn Aylor Memorial, among others, culminating with their annual \$400,000 Super Night.

A highlight of this year's meeting was hosting State Representative Matt Caldwell, who has worked tirelessly over the years with Pennacchio to keep harness racing alive and thriving in Florida. Caldwell was one of the key proponents in quashing the proposed decoupling bill this year and is now seeking the office of Commissioner of Agriculture in his ongoing quest to protect harness racing in Florida. **HB**

In Memoriam

James Boyd

James E. Boyd, 83, of Batavia, N.Y., died peacefully April 5, 2018, at the Northgate Health Care Facility in North Tonawanda.

Widely known as "Gentleman Jim," Mr. Boyd took over the Batavia Downs track announcing duties from the legendary Max Robinson in 1984 and continued to call races there until the track closed in 1996. He was also the announcer at Buffalo Raceway and called races at Finger Lakes.

Mr. Boyd called the richest race ever held at Batavia Downs, the \$268,756 Breeders Crown Older Mare Trot in 1988, won by Armbro Flori. He also called Getting Personal's 1:53.3 track record in 1993.

"Jim was known for a very steady voice and very accurate calls," said Todd Haight, director and general manager of live racing at Batavia Downs. "Even though it's been over 20 years since his retirement, our old-timers still ask about him."

Besides calling the races, Mr. Boyd was also a salesman in the Buffalo area for many years.

Mr. Boyd was born in Batavia, the son of the late Harry S. and Marjorie (Price) Boyd. He was preceded in death by his wife, Josephine (Nevin) Boyd; and siblings, Raymond, Robert, Ronald "Don," and Harry "Jack."

He was a graduate of Batavia High School and Alfred State College. He served honorably in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict. Upon returning home, he became a member of the Glenn S. Loomis Post No. 332 of the American Legion in Batavia and rose to the position of post commander.

Mr. Boyd is survived by his beloved daughter, Deborah (William) Evans; dear friend, Paula (Frederick) Leigh; and many nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions may be made to Volunteers for Animals of Genesee County (vol4animals.org).

Florzell Daniels

Florzell "Georgia Boy" Daniels, 88, of Harrington, Del., died April 12, 2018, at Nanticoke Memorial Hospital in Seaford.

Mr. Daniels was born on March 1,

1930, to the late Pleas and Daisey Lee Daniels in Blakely, Ga. He received his education at Washington High School in Blakely. After leaving home, he served in the U.S. Air Force from 1947 to 1949.

He later found his passion for horses, and started professionally grooming horses in 1958, working until his illness in 2015. A legend in the harness racing industry, affectionately known as "Georgia Boy," he touched the lives of many with his humble spirit and infectious smile. He worked at various racetracks, including Harrington, Dover, Freehold, Chester, Meadowlands, Ocean Downs, Colonial Downs, Rosecroft, Brandywine, and Liberty Bell.

At the vibrant age of 83, he proudly received the honor of HTA/Hanover Shoe Farms Groom of the Year in 2012. Of the many, many horses in his care over the years, he often said his favorite horse was Southern Nero.

At the time of the award, it was printed that "as a black man who grew up in the South in a time when race was a significant issue, "Georgia Boy" saw the world at its worst and at its best. But none of the worst soured him; he loved life, he loved people, he loved animals, most of all, horses."

He was the true essence of the goodness of harness racing.

He thoroughly enjoyed reading the newspaper, watching sports, laughing, joking, having fun, and doting on his family.

Mr. Daniels was preceded in death by his loving parents; sister, Onita Beale; and daughter, Jeannette. He leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife of 46 years, Frances C.; youngest sister, Gwendolyn (Keith) Romelly; sons, Florzell Jr. (the late Pam), Bill (Denise), Ardell (Linda), and Eugene (Mardella) White; daughters, Yvonne (William) McCormick, Leona White, Nina Everett, and Thais; 15 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and a host of in-laws, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Keith Goodwin

Keith Goodwin, 66, of Byron, N.Y., died peacefully at home on April 11, 2018.

Mr. Goodwin was born Nov. 3, 1951, in Batavia, N.Y., the son of the late Orville Goodwin and Rita Wasiewaleski Goodwin. He was also preceded in death by his sister, Kathie Mulhall.

An avid hunter, fisherman, and fan of horse racing, he was a member of the USTA. He and his wife, Karen, were longtime proprietors of Goodwin Farm in Byron where they boarded racehorses.

A trainer and driver for many years, he was a hard-working man who appreciated the simple things in life, family, and friends. He lived his life doing ordinary things extraordinarily well.

He is survived by his wife and best friend, Karen A. Mullen Goodwin, who he married Sept. 29, 1984; daughter, Christine (Tim) Baker; grandson, Jaxon Baker; brothers-in-law, Ron (Renee) Mullen and Larry Mulhall; sisters-in-law, Alice (Dan) Dollinger and Nancy Anderson; several nieces and nephews, including Katrina (Salvy) Urso and Phillip Reiss; stepmother, Marjorie; and many cousins.

Memorial contributions may be made to Roswell Park Alliance Foundation, Elm & Carlton Streets, Buffalo, NY 14263 (roswellpark.org/giving).

Robert Gruber III

Longtime western New York Standard-bred owner and trainer Robert Gruber III, 52, of Lakeview, N.Y., died March 31, 2018, after suffering a medical emergency during an on-track training session.

Mr. Gruber started his training career in 1991. During his 27-year career, his horses made 9,220 starts and won 1,235, making more than \$4.8 million in purse earnings. His best campaign was in 2009 when he found the winner's circle 130 times, collecting more than \$565,000.

Racing throughout the Northeast, Mr. Gruber's operation was based in western New York. His stable made many of its starts on the Buffalo Raceway/Batavia Downs circuit.

He was the husband of Carol; father of Robert IV; and brother of David, Karen, Kim, and Denise.

Eugene Kurzrok

Eugene Kurzrok, 81, managing partner of Our Horse Cents Stable and Stable 45, and an owner of several champi-

ons including Mission Brief, Southwind Frank, What The Hill, Obrigado, and Golden Receiver, died April 16, 2018, after a brief illness.

Mr. Kurzrok purchased his first horse in the mid-1970s after spending time at Roosevelt Raceway. He started with claimers and worked his way up to owning several top stakes winners. He not only loved the sport, but also loved the animals and enjoyed visiting the farms each fall prior to the yearling sales.

Sam Rice

Sam Rice, 87, of Monticello, N.Y., died peacefully on April 14, 2018, after a brief battle with cancer at Elderwood Nursing Facility in Hamburg, N.Y.

Mr. Rice was the son of the late Morris and Sara Riccer and was born July 15, 1930, in Poland. A Holocaust survivor, he immigrated to the United States in the late 1940s.

Mr. Rice worked many years as a kosher chef in the Catskill Mountains during the heyday at the Tamarack Lodge and the Raleigh Hotel, among others. While he cooked for many celebrities and dignitaries, he also volunteered his culinary time and talent to local synagogues in the area.

He was a member of the USC Shoah Foundation, and a longtime member of the USTA and the Monticello Harness Horsemen's Association. Throughout the majority of his life he owned racehorses at Monticello Raceway, as well as other metropolitan racetracks.

He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, and a friend to all that knew and loved him. He will be missed.

He is survived by his daughters, Marilyn (Michael) Del Gaizo and Gail (George) Soberon; sons, Stuart and Jack (Maria); nine grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and a sister, Dina Rotsztein. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, Edward, as well as a brother and sister. *HB*

Please send obituaries to **In Memoriam, Hoof Beats**, 6130 S. Sunbury Rd., Westerville, OH 43081-9309. You can also send them by email to news@ustrotting.com, or by fax to 844.229.1338 (toll free U.S. and Canada) or 614.224.4575 (outside the U.S. and Canada). Obituaries are subject to editing for clarity and space.

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