

RACE TRACK CHAPLAINCY OF AMERICA'S WHITE HORSE AWARD

On Thursday, October 23, less than 48 hours before the \$14 million Breeders' Cup World Thoroughbred Championships begin, many of the racing world's best known leaders will gather at Santa Anita Park's Seabiscuit Court to celebrate and honor the contribution our workforce makes to the racing industry.

During a special White Horse Heroes Luncheon, the RTCA will present the White Horse Award to the one backstretch or racing farm worker judged to have performed the most heroic act in behalf of human or horse. It includes a cash prize, special edition White Horse Statue and other donated gifts.

The top four nominees will earn expense paid trips to the Breeders' Cup, be made available to the press and attend the various related functions. The feature race that day will be named in their honor and the White Horse Award winner will present the trophy.

Oak Tree Racing, which hosts the 2003 Breeders' Cup races, is a member of the RTCA White Horse Fellowship and is planning to honor backstretch workers by making October 23, White Horse Heroes Day.

"I think the award is a wonderful idea," said Mr. D.G. Van Clief Jr., President of Breeders' Cup Ltd. and Vice Chairman of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association. "I think it will become a point of pride for a group of unsung heroes who live and work in racing 24-hours a day, seven days a week."

Laura Hillenbrand, the author of "*Seabiscuit, An American Legend*" said, "You're doing a wonderful thing. I love the idea of the White Horse Award. It is much needed and much overdue."

The winner will be elected by members of the White Horse Fellowship, composed of persons who have demonstrated their care and concern for our workforce by contributing \$10,000 for each of two years.

Last spring, WinStar Farm co-owners Kenny and Lisa Troutt donated \$100,000 to institute the annual award. Others who have since become Fellowship members include:

<i>Ed Allred</i>	<i>Annette Bacola</i>	<i>AQHA</i>	<i>Oak Tree Racing</i>
<i>Gary Biszantz</i>	<i>Bill Casner</i>	<i>Bayer Animal Health</i>	<i>Thoroughbred Charities of America</i>
<i>Pat Day</i>	<i>Reed Farley</i>	<i>TVG</i>	<i>NTRA</i>
<i>Dan Fick</i>	<i>Gracefield Farm</i>	<i>Thoroughbred Times</i>	<i>Blood-Horse</i>
<i>Brereton Jones</i>	<i>Al Kirkwood</i>	<i>Hollywood Park</i>	<i>Breeders' Cup Ltd.</i>
<i>Corey Johnsen</i>	<i>Overbrook Farm</i>		
<i>George Strawbridge</i>	<i>R.D. Hubbard</i>		

The RTCA, founded in Florida in 1971, sanctions and oversees 45 track chaplains who serve at 70 American tracks, training centers and horse breeding centers. Its mission is to provide for the spiritual, emotional, physical and social needs of horse racing's workforce.

Nominations can be made by contacting RTCA Development Director, Ed Donnally, by phone or email. (310) 419-1640, cell (818) 653-3711 or edonnally@racetrackchaplaincy.org.

