

# In Memoriam

## ANTHONY "TONY" ABBATIELLO

Anthony "Tony" Abbatiello, 89, a USTA director for 25 years and chairman of the board from 1997 to 2003, died Oct. 19, 2017, at his home in Colts Neck, N.J., after complications from heart failure.

Mr. Abbatiello, the son of Italian immigrants, started in the sport by acquiring 457 acres in what is now known as Colts Neck, where he built a home, a training track, and paddocks for his pacers and trotters.

He had returned from battle in Korea, where he rose to the rank of captain, winning numerous battlefield commendations including the Combat Infantry Badge, Silver Star, Bronze Star with Valor, two Purple Hearts, Presidential Unit Citation, Korean Campaign Ribbon with four Battle Stars, and the Korean Service Medal.

Colts Neck is now rife with mansions, including that of Bruce Springsteen, but then, the township was rural and welcoming to a young man who became one of the most respected members of the harness racing community and for whom the \$500,000 Anthony Abbatiello New Jersey Classic at the Meadowlands was named.

Mr. Abbatiello was co-founder of the Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey (SBOANJ) in 1960 and served as the group's president for nearly three decades.

The development of the Meadowlands, harness racing's premier racetrack,

was also a project for which Mr. Abbatiello provided not only his backing, but also his racing expertise. When the advertising company preparing its campaign for the opening of the track in 1976 wanted to demonstrate the Sports Complex's proximity to New York City, it was Mr. Abbatiello who was called upon to sit behind a horse as they filmed him crossing the George Washington Bridge, emerging from the Lincoln Tunnel and pacing on the tarmac at Newark Airport.

Mr. Abbatiello retired as a trainer several years ago, but since 2005 had been a member of the New Jersey Racing Commission.

He previously served on the board of managers at Rutgers University for a dozen years and the advisory committee of the Federal Land Bank for approximately 18 years.

Along the way, Mr. Abbatiello was an acknowledged industry leader both on and off the racetrack. As a trainer, he conditioned many top horses, including a pair of near million-dollar earners, Newt Lobell and Taurus Romeo.

Off the track, he was also the first chairman of the New Jersey Sire Stakes board of directors, chairman of the American Horse Council in Washington, D.C., and a trustee of the Harness Racing Museum in Goshen, N.Y.

On July 2, 1995, he was inducted into the Harness Racing Hall of Fame, becoming half of the first brother tandem

so honored. His brother, Carmine, was a 1985 inductee.

Other awards during Mr. Abbatiello's distinguished career included Harness Horsemen's International's Man of the Year, the New Jersey Horse Council's 1982 Horseman of the Year, the 1988 Clem McCarthy Good Guy Award, the United States Harness Writers Association's 1992 Proximity Award, and selection to the National Italian-American Sports Hall of Fame.

In 2006, the Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey renamed the New Jersey Classic for Mr. Abbatiello.

Several times per year, Mr. Abbatiello invited special-needs and inner-city kids for a day in the country and a chance to fish for bluegills in ponds on his farm. He also maintained several animals for their enjoyment, including a miniature donkey named Pepito, who gently took treats from children.

Mr. Abbatiello was preceded in death by his wife, Kathleen, and he lived until his death on 70 acres of Five Point Farm that he retained. On the balance of the property, luxury homes were built on roadways named for harness racing greats like Hambletonian and Messenger.

He is survived by three daughters, Jean (Craig) Sardoni, Christine (John) Whelan and Lisa (James) Locke; grandchildren, Ava and Michael Sardoni, Shane and Jack Whelan, and Abigail and Ian Locke; brothers, Carmine and Matt; sister, Sadie Merillo; and several nieces and nephews.



## Forest (Frosty) Halverson

Forest (Frosty) Halverson, 103, died Oct. 4, 2017.

He was born on May 11, 1914, on his family's farmstead. He was educated near Laurel, Iowa, and graduated from Laurel High School in 1932.

Mr. Halverson married Martha Conger in 1940 and they lived on the farm they worked near Laurel. She preceded him in death in 1975. He later married Dora Wells and she preceded him in death in 2000.

He was a farmer and also enjoyed

raising and training his harness horses. He also enjoyed dancing for many years.

In 1946, he and Martha took in Larry Good to raise. Larry and Sandra "Sam" reside in Marshalltown, Iowa. Also surviving are Dora's children, John (Pam) Wells and Marjorie (Dave) Hunter; as well as grandchildren, Daniel (Jill) Wells, Kristin (David) Heese, Jordan Wells, Nicole Wells, Chase Hunter, James (Kristin) Hunter, Cassandra (Dennis) Schapker, and Christina Good; and 10 great-grandchildren. He also had many special nieces and nephews. Besides his two wives, he was also preceded in

death by his parents; brothers, Harold and LaVerne; and sister, Ruby Spence.

## Allan McCarty

Western New York horseman Allan McCarty, 67, died Oct. 16, 2017.

He was known for his quick wit, amazing sense of humor, generosity, and ability to train Standardbreds.

His biggest success on the racetrack came with New York Sire Stakes champion Hitwiththeladies, who earned \$435,877 during his 36-race career.

He also developed invitational trotters

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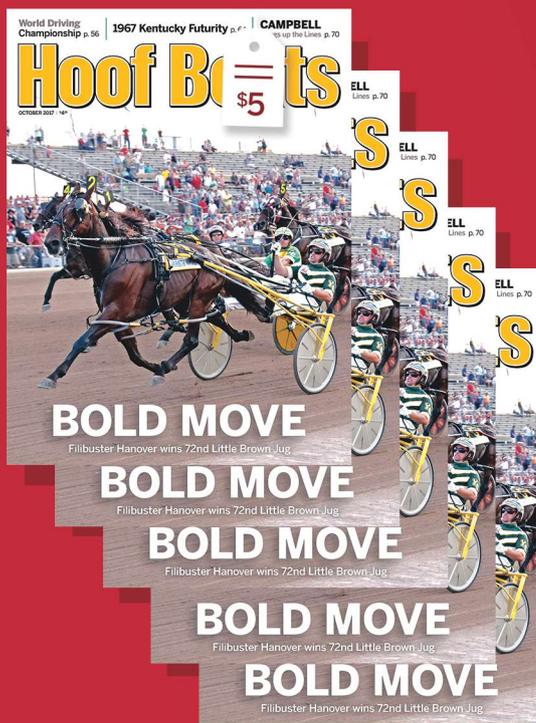
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### In Memoriam

Prime Interest, an earner of \$659,141, My Attorney Bernie (\$258,363) and Manfromnantucket (\$152,857), just to name a few.

He also bred 13 racehorses.

#### Fred Monteleone

Longtime owner Ferdinand "Fred" Monteleone, 78, died Oct. 5, 2017, from cancer after ceasing further treatment nine days earlier.

Buying his first horse almost 50 years ago, Mr. Monteleone owned many horses, including Cincinnati Kid (\$744,606); Civil Action (\$630,562), later sold to Italian interests; and Monte Hall (\$834,513). Among his other favorites were I Saw Him First, ICI Aussi, The Paper Wazoo, and Paper Luck.

"Some were great," he once said, "but some weren't so great, but I loved them all. I don't play golf and I don't fish, so I guess my only hobby would be my horses and that hobby has lasted for close to 50 years."

In 2017, the Fred Monteleone Stable had several horses racing in the Mickey McNichol Stable, among them the 3-year-old Bro Hanover; Rockntouch, who Mr. Monteleone owned in partnership with longtime friend Salvatore Promuto; the Open trotter Bjanthony; and Blueberry Heaven, a talented 3-year-old pacer that won on opening night at Pompano Park.

Of his passing, McNichol said, "Fred was one of the greatest gentlemen I have ever met in my life. He was generous and he loved his family."

Longtime friend Anthony Marcou said, "This is a heart-breaking day for so many of us. Fred was the pulse of his family and his many friends. There will never be another one like him. That mold was broken a long time ago."

Mr. Monteleone is survived by his wife, Barbara; daughter, Debbie (Rick) Ramsay; son, Neil (Laura); and grandchildren, Christopher, Jessica Lee, Gabriela, Fred and Nicole, who he called the "delightful five!"

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