Francis Bond
Francis R. Bond, 86, a longtime owner, driver and trainer at Batavia Downs and Buffalo Raceway, died peacefully Dec. 26, 2017, at United Memorial Medical Center in Batavia, N.Y.

Mr. Bond was born in Buffalo, N.Y., on July 27, 1931. He became a Marine after leaving school and began boxing while in the service in the Armed Forces Title Fights. He fought in the lightweight class and eventually worked into the featherweight division.

The then 126-lb. “fighting Marine” was described as “a game and lively scrap-per who could take a hit and come back with a better one.”

Mr. Bond became one of the Marines’ top boxers, winning a featherweight title in 1953 while often fighting men from the professional ranks between service bouts and sometimes competing in higher weight classes.

He continued to fight professionally in the Golden Gloves after he left the service under the name Bobby Bond and was trained by Angelo Dundee, who also conditioned the likes of Muhammad Ali, George Foreman, Sugar Ray Leonard and Carmen Basilio. He competed in 15 professional fights all over the Eastern Seaboard, including New York City at Madison Square Garden.

Mr. Bond first got involved in harness racing in 1966 and eventually got his trainer and driver licenses. He ran a small stable for the next 39 years, seeing most of his driving success in the 1970s (where he scored 135 of his 189 career victories) and most of his training accomplishments (total of 108 wins) between 1990 and 2000. Mr. Bond also occasionally catch-drove horses when the opportunity arose.

His last winning effort as a driver came on May 16, 1996, behind H F Har-rriet at Buffalo Raceway.

Mr. Bond was an entrepreneur and made a buck any way he could. He owned a soft drink distributorship; ran the track kitchen at Batavia Downs; and sold hay, straw, and feed for many years while, and after, he was compet- ing. He was known by everyone on the backstretch and was an affable individ-ual his entire life.

Christine Cachaza

Born May 28, 1956, in Buffalo, N.Y., she was the daughter of the late John E. and Lucille Mongeon.

More than anything else, her life centered around her family. Family meant everything to her. She was famous for saying, “Family is the best.” Although she was not one to play favorites, she was especially proud of her grandsons, Kaden Garland and John (J.P.) Cachaza.

She spent most of her life working in harness racing alongside her father, brothers, and son. She loved the horses, but even more, she loved her racing family. Even after she was not physically able to work at the track, she kept in touch and always took the time to think of others.

Whether she was beaming with pride about her grandchildren or simply wishing someone a happy birthday, she would always go out of her way to make someone’s day a little brighter. She never shied away from love; she was sure to remind friends and family of her love for them “to the moon and back.” Indeed, she loved and was loved by many.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sister, Ann (Buttons) Paradis. She is survived by her son, Eric (Stacie) and their sons, John and Kaden (Garland); brother, David (Barb) Mongeon; brother, John (Ann) Mongeon and their daughters, Marie and Nicole; brother, Scott (Kar-en); nephew, Shane; and Karen’s children, Jordan and Kate Dingman. She also has family whom she loved dearly spread across the U.S. and Canada.

The family would like to extend their gratitude to Mary’s Haven for their care and support. When asked how she felt about staying there, Mrs. Cachaza replied, “It feels like home.”

Thank you also to the many friends and family who reached out and who visited, called, or conveyed their support and love. The family would also like to thank Christie’s dear friend, Kate Campbell, who put her life on hold to support and assist Christie through her journey.

Memorial contributions may be made to Mary’s Haven, 35 New St., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866, or www.maryshaven.org.

Samuel Camarata
Samuel M. Camarata, 79, died peacefully surrounded by his family on Dec. 24, 2017.

Early in his life, Mr. Camarata developed a love of harness racing after regularly attending Roosevelt and Yonkers raceways while working in New York City. He later started the Cam Car Stable that featured most of his horses using the Cam Car surname. His most successful horse was Cam Car Express p:1:52.1 ($165,329).

Mr. Camarata was a retired postmaster, and coached Little League baseball and Pop Warner football. He was also a lifelong New York Yankees fan and Syracuse Orange basketball fan.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Kim Marie; son, Anthony; brother, Anthony C.; and brother-in-law, Robert Carafice. He is survived by his beloved wife of 60 years, Janet M. (Carafice); son, Mark S. (Kimberli); daughter, Cheryl A. (Michael) Thornberg; daughter-in-law, Suzanne; Kim Marie’s partner, Sharon Weins; grandchildren, Caralyn, Elizabeth, Nicole Parisi, Brittany Parisi, Gerry Thornberg, David Thornberg, Dr. Sam (Erin), and Joel; great-grandchildren, Madalyn Pimplton, Zoe Pimplton, and Anthony J.; sister, Pauline (Stanley) Tucciarello; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Shelia Carafice, Louis Fracassi, Kathy Fracassi, Maria Costanza, and Fred Costanza; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and wonderful friends.

Carlton Chamberlin

Mr. Chamberlin graduated from the University of New Hampshire with a master’s degree in education. He taught in schools in the U.S. and Germany and later worked as a principal.

He was the owner/operator of the Pine Tree Sales Co. in Maine and an avid owner and breeder of Standard-breds for decades.

He was an active member of the
Maine Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association and served on the education committee for their scholarship program. He served as a director, officer, and president of the Maine Horse Association and the New England Horsemen Council. He was also a founding member of the American Saddlebred Association of Maine, where he served as a director, officer, and president. He was a longtime member of the USTA and a member of the Christian Harness Horsemen's Association.

He and his brother, George, owned and operated a successful riding stable in Springvale, Maine, for many years. They eventually converted the riding stable and started breeding and racing Standardbreds and continued to do so until 2015.

Mr. Chamberlin is survived by his brothers, George and Nelson; sister, Ruth; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Maine Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association scholarship fund at MSBOA Scholarship Fund, Attn: Fran Hanley, 103 Barbara Rd., Randolph, ME 04346.

Danny Davidson

Danny Lee Davidson, 64, of Pinckney, Mich., formerly of Caro, died Dec. 26, 2017, at the VA Medical Center in Ann Arbor.

Mr. Davidson was born June 3, 1953, in Caro, the son of Darlene (Putnam) Davidson and the late Harry Davidson.

In 1971, he enlisted with the U.S. Army and was honorably discharged in 1972. Mr. Davidson worked for 10 years at Michigan Sugar in Caro as a boiler house operator before becoming a self-employed Standardbred trainer-driver, a career and passion that lasted more than 40 years.

Mr. Davidson was united in marriage with the former Claudia Cary on Feb. 2, 2008, in Manistee and she survives.

His spare time was spent hunting for pheasant and deer; he shot the biggest buck of his life last year. He was proud of his farm and took meticulous care of it and his horses.

He was also an avid Harley Davidson enthusiast and a member of the Fowlerville Harness Horsemen’s Committee, Fowlerville Fair, Michigan Harness Horsemen’s Association, and the USTA.

He is survived by his loving wife, Claudia; daughter, Angela; grandchildren, Chase, Miles, and Harley; mother, Darlene; siblings, Sue (Melvin) Lucksted, Patsy (David) Friedlander, Tammy (Carl) Sattelberg, David (Diane), Harry (friend, Margaret), Tim (Kelly), and Larry; father-in-law, Joseph Cary; sisters-in-law, Kathleen Black, Lynda Parker, and Joanne Jackson; brother-in-law, Tom Cary; faithful household companion, Honey; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by his grandparents, George and Jenny, and William.
In Memoriam

Memorial contributions may be made to the Fowlerville Family Fair for a memorial race in Mr. Davidson’s name, at 8800 East Grand River, P.O. Box 372, Fowlerville, MI 48836.

Jeanne Ferland

She was born Oct. 28, 1934, the daughter of Oscar and Inez (Belanger) Cantin.

She had many talents pertaining to the sport of harness racing. She and her husband, Bob, were an integral part of racing at the Rochester Fair for more than three decades.

The Ferlands also had an extensive harness racing museum (Rochester Fair Hall of Fame) located in the grandstand at the fairgrounds, but what Mrs. Ferland will probably be best known for was the way she meticulously recreated miniature racing colors, with her gift of needle and thread, where she memorialized many of the drivers who passed through New England over the years. These miniature colors, numbering in the hundreds, are currently on display in the grandstand at Scarborough Downs in Maine.

Mrs. Ferland was involved with the New England stakes program and was the driving force behind the Mr. 1,000 Club, which brought together top drivers to compete in many of the New England venues.

She also owned and operated Beauty Bar for 49 years.

She had a great devotion to her church, participating in the choir, breakfasts, suppers, and fairs.

Survivors include her husband, Robert; daughter, Robyn Norton; and three grandsons.

Joe Foley
Joe Foley, 72, died peacefully in a nursing home the week before Christmas after several months of suffering from dementia.

He started in the harness business working as a groom in Montreal at the old Blue Bonnets in 1960, working for veteran top trotting horseman Percy Robillard. He became a trainer in Percy’s stable, before going out on his own as a trainer-driver in the late 1960s. He had a small stable which started at Blue Bonnets before racing successfully at Windsor in the Joe DeFrank days. He moved his stable to the Meadowlands in the mid-1970s.

One of his career highlights came in the late 1970s when he cared for and trained the great trotter Glencoe Pride, whom Percy had sent to the Meadowlands. Glencoe Pride dominated the open trot class, winning six in a row, with John Campbell doing the driving.

Mr. Foley trained horses until the late 1990s and then worked with the track maintenance crew at the Meadowlands until dementia began to set in six years ago.

He is survived by his wife, Linda, who lives in New Jersey; and eight brothers and sisters who live in Canada.

Robert Hoyt
Robert Hoyt, 78, died Dec. 23, 2017, at Saratoga Hospital in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Born in Ballston Spa, N.Y., on March 20, 1939, he was the son of Robert and Ruth Coon Hoyt, and grandson of Amy and W. Reno Coon. He graduated from Ballston Spa High School in 1957, and then attended Albany Business College and the Junior College of Albany.

Throughout the years, he was employed by several public relations agencies, radio stations (his handle was Bob Manning), Saratoga Raceway, NYSRWB, Saratoga County, and several automobile agencies throughout the Capital District.

At his passing, he proudly still held his USTA membership.

Mr. Hoyt loved to cook, travel to Maine and attend harness racetracks throughout the country and Canada.

In addition to his parents and grandparents, he was preceded in death by his stepson, Michael Lewis. Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Patricia; sister, Linda Casaly and her companion, Harold Amery; loving nieces, Christine (Henry) Gray and their children, Anna and Evan; Susan (Todd) Fraser and their son, Ashton; and stepson, William Lewis and his children, Lindsey and Taylor. He is also survived by Bob’s gals and guys, Jennifer, Nancy, Sam, Lenny, Brent and Ken.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Shriners Hospitals for Children at www.shrinershospitalsforchildren.org or the charity of your choice.

Pearl Johnson
Pearl W. Johnson (“P.J.”), 74, the man, the legend, of Ray, Ohio, formerly of Lithopolis, died Jan. 8, 2018, surrounded by his loving family.

He was born April 30, 1943, in Columbus to the late Pearl H. and Lucille (Geddes) Johnson. He was a cowboy, a hunter, a husband, and a father.

Mr. Johnson attended school in Canal Winchester and Carroll, and served in the U.S. Army. He was the owner of Columbus Electric Sales, Washington Court House Electric Sales, Mt. Vernon Electric Sales, Newark Electric Sales, Star Electric Sales, Johnson Stables, P. bar J Ranch, and P bar J Outfitters.

He is survived by his wife of 20 years, Sandi; children, Pearl Kevin, Robert Hoyt, 78, died Dec. 23, 2017, at Saratoga Hospital in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

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He is survived by his wife of 20 years, Sandi; children, Pearl Kevin
(Trinda), Kraig, Kurt (Kelly), Kristopher (Emma), Eddie (Tonya) Ogle, Brandi (Michael) Steele, and Dakota “Bear”; 17 grandchildren; siblings, Carolyn (Tim) Howard, James (Carol), Kathy (Susan), Marilyn (Doug) Toole, and Stephanie (Dan) Taylor; stepmother, Darlene; in-laws, Ralph and Sandra Ogle; and nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions may be made to Pickering House, 282 Sells Rd., Lancaster, OH 43130, or www.hospicefairfieldco.org/the_pickering_house.htm.

Brian Kelley
Brian J. Kelley, 59, died peacefully surrounded by his loved ones on Jan. 3, 2018.

Mr. Kelley was a fun-loving, caring father and grandfather. He was an avid outdoorsman, fisherman, and lifelong harness racing horseman. He trained and owned many horses throughout his life, passing his passion for horses down to his family.

He enjoyed reading and watching sports, and was a diehard Seattle Seahawks fan. His biggest joy in life was watching his children and grandchildren grow and succeed; of this he was very proud. He greatly enjoyed spending time with his family, and at the racetrack.

Mr. Kelley graduated from Lawrence High School, class of 1976.

He is survived by his children, Brian J. II (Sherrie), Heather, and Eric (partner Jennifer Klinge); grandsons, Dylan and Tim theus Edwards; granddaughters, Elexis, Sequora, and Abriana; and many dear friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Francis and Larson; and his brother, Gary.

William Knipper
William Leonard (Billy) Knipper, 57, died Jan. 12, 2018, at Select Specialty Hospital in Akron, Ohio, after a lengthy hospital stay and diabetes complications.

He was born Nov. 22, 1960, in Detroit, Mich., to William F. Knipper and Shirleyann (Feher) Giesy.

Mr. Knipper was a 1979 graduate of Jefferson High School in Ashtabula, Ohio. During his high school years, he developed a love of horses and harness racing while working as a groom at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds. He was a talented carpenter, but his beloved horses called him back to fulfill his lifetime career as a trainer. He traveled the harness racing circuit, but made his home at Northfield Park as Billy Knipper Stables.

He was preceded in death by his father, William; maternal grandparents, William and Irene Feher; and his paternal grandparents, Cyril and Frances. He is survived by his mother, Shirley (Donald) Giesy; brother, Brian (Sandy); sister, Margie (Jeff) Tokarsky; and aunts, uncles, nephews, great-nephew, cousins, and stepsiblings.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation of Northeast Ohio at www.jdrf.org/neo, or the Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame at www.harnessmuseum.com.

Jay Lewis Laing
Jay Lewis Laing, 2, of Columbus, Ohio,

He was the son of Donna (Provenzano) Warner and the late David Warner Jr., nephew of James Samberg and the late Barbara (Provenzano) Samberg, and the grandson of Pat (Barbara) Provenzano. It was Mr. Provenzano who introduced pari-mutuel harness racing in western New York when he opened Batavia Downs in Batavia, N.Y., in 1941 and it became a family business.
Mr. Warner was born April 17, 1965, in the 10th Ward in Rochester, N.Y. He attended Sacred Heart Cathedral Grammar School, Cardinal Mooney High School, and Gannon University. He excelled in many sports including golf, basketball, and soccer.

His easygoing demeanor and quick wit made him popular with everyone he met. He was especially proud of his high school soccer team at Cardinal Mooney and recalled with pleasure the year they won the New York state championship.

He 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, Calif., in 1992 to pursue a career in the golf industry. It was there that he met his wife, Melissa. They were married in La Quinta, Calif., in the very room in which they met.

Mr. Warner became the director of corporate tournaments at PGA West and he continued with that organization for many years before moving to San Jose, Calif., where Melissa was residing prior to their marriage. After moving to San Jose, he became warehouse manager at Williams-Sonoma in Los Gatos, Calif., and for more than 11 years he loved, and was loved, by his “work family.”

His passions included family, friends, the Pittsburgh Steelers and treasured summers in Thousand Island Park, N.Y.

He so enriched the life of his wife, Melissa, and was the devoted, proud father of Riley, and embraced and cherished his stepson, Grant Hendricks. He also left behind a tight family which includes his mom, Donna; sisters, Amy (Carl) Munding and Julie (Michael) Miller; and brothers, David J. III (Mary Beth) and Eric (Julia Poli). He is also survived by many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, and countless friends. IB

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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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