

In Memoriam

Kevin Efimetz

Kevin Efimetz, 52, originally from Michigan, died Aug. 15, 2018.

During his more than 30 years in the horse business, Mr. Efimetz, affectionately known as “Big Bird,” had crossed North America, racing at many tracks from Ontario to California. He relocated to New York in 2011, racing mainly at Yonkers and Monticello.

Mr. Efimetz made new friends easily wherever he went, and willingly lent a helping hand to anyone in need. His quick wit brightened many a day.

The sad news of his passing spread quickly throughout the racing community. His 14-year-old pacer Semalu Express was on a three-race win streak at Monticello at the time of his death.

He was quite a sports fan, especially when it came to hockey; and in his younger days, he was an avid pick-up-game player. In recent years, he enjoyed competing in three-card poker tournaments in Las Vegas, and feasting on In-N-Out Burgers while he was there.

Mr. Efimetz is survived by his mother, Gloria; brothers, Brian (Tamyra) and Kerry (Jill); many nieces and nephews; and faithful dog, Max. He was preceded in death by his father, Walt; and brother, Chris (Susan).

He will also be greatly missed by his many friends and acquaintances.

William Faucher

William Henry “Bill” Faucher, 80, of Hinsdale, N.H., died Aug. 6, 2018, at the Jack Byrne Center for Palliative Care & Hospice at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, N.H., following an extended illness.

A longtime resident of Hinsdale, he was born in Webster, Mass., on Feb. 13, 1938, the son of Roland and Cecile (Jacob) Faucher, and was raised in the Webster area, attending Notre Dame Parochial School in Southbridge.

Mr. Faucher had worked most of his career as a horse owner, trainer and driver on the Standardbred racing circuit, professionally competing at many racing venues along the entire East Coast. Locally, he raced at Hinsdale Raceway, the Meadowlands, Scarborough Downs and Rockingham Park as well as other East Coast racetracks.

A hardworking and skilled entrepreneur, he owned and operated several successful businesses, including Hinsdale Harness (OTB), Faucher Paper Co., Faucher Trucking, and Route 63 Country Store—all in the greater Hinsdale area.

Active civically, he served two terms as a New Hampshire State Representative, was a steadfast promoter of harness racing, and served as a USTA director.

Mr. Faucher was an accomplished private pilot and owned his own plane for several years.

His leisure-time activities included travel, especially trips in his RV with family and close friends; visiting Disney World in Orlando, Fla., one of his favorite destinations; golfing; and time shared with his family.

He married Janet Wojchick on April 27, 1963, at Saint Joseph’s Church in Hinsdale, and both were communicants of Saint Michael Roman Catholic Church in Brattleboro.

He is survived by Janet; three daughters, Karen Gaddy, Laurie and Kelly Gilmartin; a nephew who he considered a son, Christopher Lord; brother, Roland; sister, Muriel Johnson; six grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; and a large host of friends.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Jack Byrne Center for Palliative & Hospice, 1 Medical Center Dr., Lebanon, NH 03756-0001.

Peter Geldof Jr.

Peter Geldof Jr., 90, died peacefully at his home on Aug. 3, 2018.

Born and raised in Rochester, N.Y., the son of Peter and Lena (Geldof), he attended Monroe High School and SUNY Farmingdale, where he was an avid soccer player and received the award for Outstanding Student in Ornamental Horticulture. On June 5, 1974, he married his beloved wife, Evanelle, in Ellwood City, Pa.

Mr. Geldof moved to Delaware in 1954, where he was hired as superintendent of Brandywine Springs State Park. In 1964, he was appointed director by the Delaware State Park Commission (Division of Parks and Recreation), where he was responsible for acquiring new land for the park systems and preserving existing state parks. He was

most proud of his accomplishments in the creation of three state beach parks: Cape Henlopen, Delaware Seashore and Fenwick Island. In 1984, he received the Governor’s Diamond State Award for his dedication to establishing outstanding parks and facilities. He retired in October 1986 after 32 years of service.

Mr. Geldof had a passion for horses. He owned, bred, trained and raced Standardbreds for many years while operating his farm, New Amsterdam Farms. He loved racing harness horses up and down the East Coast. He was one of the original directors of the Delaware Standardbred Breeders’ Fund when it was reborn in 2001. His colt, P T’s Gold Dust, won both finals as a 2-year-old in 2003, driven by the late Brad Hanners.

He also was a renowned horticulturist and landscape design expert, not only putting his skills to work for the Delaware State Parks, but also creating masterpieces for his friends and families’ gardens and yards.

He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Evanelle; brother, Jerry (Alice); sister, Jane (Donald) Lanio; sons, Lawrence (Rosemary) and David (Tiffany); daughters, Diane (John) Giles and Lisa Mulligan; nine grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. His sister, Norma Lauweret, preceded him in death.

Memorial contributions may be made to a charity of one’s choice.

Clyde McNabb

Clyde B. “Barry” McNabb, 82, of Germantown, Ohio, died Aug. 23, 2018, at his home, surrounded by his family.

He was born Sept. 1, 1935, in West Carrollton, Ohio, the son of the late Frank McNabb and Dolores (Spinks) Lauterbach.

Mr. McNabb was a retired employee of Delco Products with more than 25 years of service, and also the owner of numerous Standardbreds, as well as an avid fan of horse racing.

He is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Marjorie (Yates) McNabb; sons, Steve (Karen), Mike (Katherine) and Jeff (Vicki); daughters, Mary Ann (Mark) Zambo and Holly Knoblock; grandchildren, Scott Arnett, Chad, Megan, Emily (Chris) Brock and Eric

Loeb; great-grandchildren, Parker Brock, Beckett Brock and Ellis Brock; as well as other family members and many friends. He was preceded in death by his sister, Lucy Pine.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Dayton at www.hospiceofdayton.org/donations.

Charles "Ed" Mullinax

Charles "Ed" Mullinax, 85, of Amherst, Ohio, died Aug. 4, 2018, in Port Orange, Fla., and enjoyed his final days surrounded by the family he loved.

He was born of humble beginnings in Ellijay, Ga., on April 4, 1933, to William and Clarissa (McAlpine) Mullinax. He always bragged about his Georgia roots, although he spent most of his life in Ohio. He graduated from Stow (Ohio) High School in 1952, earning eight varsity letters in football, baseball and basketball. He briefly attended Wilmington College, where he played football, before joining the U.S. Army and becoming a paratrooper and M.P. with the 82nd Airborne Special Forces Division at Fort Bragg, N.C.

After the military, he worked at the

Mohawk Rubber Company and the Ford Engine plant, plus spent a short time at Kent State University before finding a job in 1957 that would turn out to be a career: selling cars. He sold cars at several dealerships, then advanced to used car manager at Graham Ford in Akron in 1963 and then part-owner of George DiFeo Ford in North Canton in 1967. In 1970, he opened his first dealership, Ed Mullinax Ford, in Amherst, Ohio. He was a great leader and tremendous marketer who transformed this previously closed business into the fifth-largest Ford dealership in America. He owned 17 Ford and Lincoln-Mercury dealerships throughout his career and in the mid-1990s became the largest Ford retailer in the USA.

Mr. Mullinax was an innovator, and in 1975, he invented "one-price" selling by putting his best, non-negotiable price on every windshield to make car buying easier for the customer. He built the world's largest indoor showroom, which could display 120 cars. He created a jingle, "Ed Mullinax Is a Friend of Mine," that would become known by all in northeast Ohio. He was named one

of the industry's 50 Visionary Dealers by *Automotive News* in 2009.

He touched many lives during his lifetime, whether it was through donating to charities or teaching people how to succeed in the car business. He was especially proud of the fact that many Mullinax employees, including his own sons, went on to become managers, general managers and even dealers with their own stores.

Mr. Mullinax entered the harness racing business in 1993 and owned many horses, including P-Forty-Seven, the 2005 winner of the Little Brown Jug in Delaware, Ohio. He also owned Drag-on Ranch Golf Course, named after his best horse, Dragon Again.

He loved playing golf, horse racing, Cleveland sports, talking politics, challenges, competition, anything "American" and the great friendships he had being a member of the Amherst Noonday Club. He was also a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church.

He once said, "I'd hate to leave this world having lived a boring life." God blessed him with a wonderful life that was anything but boring.

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Mr. Mullinax is survived by his wife of 58 years, Janet (Kline); sons, Larry (Lisa) and Jerry (Denise); daughter, Terri (Andre) Jones; and eight grandchildren, Brad (Sarah), Claire, Anastasia, Grant, Clayton, Cole, Lindsay and Kellie.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Alden and Wayne; sister, Arlene Albright; and his father-in-law and mother-in-law, John and Rose Kline.

Memorial contributions may be made to Halifax Health Hospice, 3800 Woodbriar Trail, Port Orange, FL 32129 or to a charity of one's choice.

Jane Baldt Ramsey

Jane Baldt Ramsey, 81, died July 19, 2018, at Rockland Place Retirement Living Community in Wilmington, Del.

Her final days were spent surrounded by family and friends that she had touched throughout her very memorable life. Those that were touched understood that quality of existence far exceeds the quantity of time that one lives.

Mrs. Ramsey was born in Wilmington, Del., in 1937, to the late Josephine and Carl Baldt.

Diagnosed many years ago with diabetes and heart disease, she never gave up. She never complained, maintaining a brave and cheerful outlook—even through countless hospitalizations and painful procedures. She would often say that getting old was not for sissies.

Her passions were her animals and farming. She was an early champion of rescuing abandoned dogs, cats and horses.

For 20 years, she was involved with harness racing as an owner and trainer. She raced her horses in the tri-state area during the 1970s and 1980s. Her two best horses were O'Neals Fancy and Doc's Jabara. These horses had multiple wins at Brandywine, Delmarva, Harrington, Dover and Liberty Bell. Her horses always raced in conditioned races and never claiming races. When her horses were retired, she spent a few years in the licensing office at Brandywine Raceway working for the Delaware Harness Racing Commission.

She was a big supporter of the Ramsey's Farm Pumpkin Patch and often could be found teaching the children about farm animals and giving hayrides to the farm visitors. She was on the farm each day during the pumpkin season, helping in check out and payroll,

and greeting the farm visitors at the information booth. She loved driving the tractor with her grandson, Carl.

She is survived by her children, Jane B. Ramsey (David Amos) and Stewart (Wendy); grandson, Carl; brothers, Leonard (Beverly) Baldt and William Baldt; and a nephew and two nieces. She was preceded in death by her sister-in-law, Shiela Baldt.

Memorial contributions may be made to Faithful Friends Animal Society, 12 Germay Dr., Wilmington, DE 19804 or Delaware Hospice, 16 Polly Drummond Center, 2nd Floor, Newark, DE 19711.

Martha Lee Riegle

Martha Lee Riegle, 89, of Greenville, Ohio, died Aug. 3, 2018, at the Brethren Retirement Community.

She was born April 17, 1929, in Greenville, the daughter of the late Lewis and Goldie (Hines) Arnett. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Grant E. "Gene" Riegle; daughter, Linda S. Zumbrum; son-in-law, Richard W. Huff; sister and brother-in-law, Betty and Dwayne Rolfe; brother and sister-in-law, Willard and Pat Arnett; and sister-in-law, Clara Arnett.

Mrs. Riegle was a Standardbred owner and avid fan of harness racing. She was the first woman to win the prestigious Lady Pace trophy in Delaware, Ohio.

She loved being a wife, mother and grandmother, spending time with her family and having wonderful family gatherings. She was a member of EUM Church; loved flowers; and had the amazing gift of music, being able to play the organ and piano by ear.

Mrs. Riegle is survived by her sons and daughters-in-law, Alan (Linda) and Bruce (Diana); daughter, Tami Huff; grandchildren, Carey, Nicole Lewis, Aaron Lewis, Chris Bright, Heather Bright, Laura Benson, Sean Benson, Chad, Ann Claire, Taylor, Travis Huff, Trent Huff and Lori Huff; great-grandchildren, Grant, Hunter Benson, Adriana Lewis, Rachel Huff and Tyler Huff; brother, Andy Arnett; sisters and brothers-in-law, Charlene (Roger) Black and Wanda (Don) Bolyard; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions may be made to EUM Church, 111 Devor St., Greenville, OH 45331.

Eleanor Risser

Eleanor L. Risser, 79, of Pandora, Ohio, died Aug. 1, 2018, at Mercy Health St. Rita's, Lima, Ohio.

She was born Dec. 21, 1938, in Bluffton, Ohio, to the late Stanley and Janice (Packman) Burkhart. Her husband, Charles Risser, preceded her in death.

Mrs. Risser was a retired nurse. She was a Putnam County Fair Board member for 36 years and past Matron of the Grove Chapter No. 527 OES.

She is survived by her daughters, Nita (Roger) Maag, Rita (Fred) Follas and Lita (Kenny) Siefker; grandchildren, Andy (Jennifer) Maag, Brady Maag, Brynn Follas, Jamison (Antonia) Siefker, Jessica (Brandon) Halsey and Jeff (Alaina David) Siefker; four great-grandchildren with one on the way; and a sister-in-law, Grace Burkhart. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by a brother, J.D. Burkhart.

Memorial contributions may be made to Putnam County Agricultural Society Harness Racing, P.O. Box 47, Otawa, OH 45875.

Wayne Smith

Wayne W. Smith, 63, of Belleview, Fla., formerly from Lewiston, Maine, died July 24, 2018.

Mr. Smith was a loving man with a big heart. He loved family and friends.

He, along with his father, Byron, and sister, Barb, raced and trained Standardbreds.

He is survived by his sisters, Barb (Terry) Roth, Marie (John) Hillard and Laurie; brothers, Todd (Julie) and Randall; and many aunts, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Ralph Strangis

Ralph Strangis, 82, chairman of the Minnesota Racing Commission and principal partner in the law firm Kaplan, Strangis & Kaplan, died Aug. 15, 2018.

Mr. Strangis was appointed by Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton as chair of the commission in 2013. He had served on the commission previously in the early days of Minnesota racing and returned to serve as chair more recently. He led renewed efforts to work with industry members to promote the interests of racing, protect the safety and welfare of its human and equine participants, and strengthen judicious regulation.

Those who knew and worked with

him were well aware of his commitment to the racing industry in all its dimensions, from development of and improvements to track properties (which he strongly supported), to those who toiled on the backside and were in need of support services. Even though he was unable to attend the recent fund raiser for the Permanently Disabled Jockey Fund, he made a significant contribution as a sponsor of the event.

Years ago, he was the founder of the racetrack backside program, Quality of Life, and his support for those who suffered from substance abuse was ongoing. These are just some of the many ways in which he supported the industry and the people in it.

His reputation in the racing industry was the same as it was in the Minnesota legal and business community—a man of sharp intellect who got things done, who treated everyone with respect and empathy, and who could go from serious to playful and humorous as the occasion demanded.

By his example, he demonstrated that personal commitment, being willing to listen and being fair-minded are essential qualities in the best public servants. He showed great courage to the end and he passed away peacefully with his wife, Grace, at his side.

Frankie White

Frances “Frankie” Thornbury White, well-known throughout harness racing for her work at the Lexington Selected Yearling Sale office and, before that, for many years at the Tattersalls office in Lexington, Ky., died Aug. 3, 2018.

Mrs. White was also the wife of Tom White, a member of the Communicators Hall of Fame for his work as publicist at Red Mile, Scioto Downs and the Little Brown Jug. The couple was married 60 years.

Mrs. White was quick with both a smile and an opinion. She was a frequent entertainer and fierce bridge player; a champion against injustice; and a tone-deaf music lover, especially of Broadway tunes and old hymns. She was a loyal friend and dearly loved her family.

She was a faithful and active member of Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church, where for years she helped at “craft time” working with children (whose wood-block nativity sets deco-

rate many a Lexington home); served as deacon; and was a proud member of the Presbyterian Women, which bestowed its highest honor on her.

A native of the central Appalachian town of Big Rock, Va., her only regret was not having time to go home one last time. She asked that her ashes be scattered at the Breaks Interstate Park, which straddles the Kentucky-Virginia stateline, an area which her ancestors helped settle in the early 19th century.

Mrs. White is survived by her husband, Tom; her children, Scott (Susan) and Marianne (Gary); her grandchildren, Emily, Caroline, Nathanael and Elizabeth; brother, Bill Thornbury; sister, Dorothy Thornbury Dowden; many cousins, nieces, nephews and “grands;” and a wealth of treasured friends collected over decades.

Memorial contributions may be made to Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church, 180 E Maxwell St., Lexington, KY 40508 or the Foundation for Angelman Syndrome Therapeutics at www.cureangelman.org/can/donate.

Edward Young

Edward L. Young, 88, of Berlin, Md., died Aug. 14, 2018, at Peninsula Regional Medical Center in Salisbury, Md.

Mr. Young was born in Hinsdale, N.H., and was the son of the late Paul E. and Leona (Packard) Young.

He was employed by Ocean Downs for 35 years as the general manager. He was also a member of the USTA.

He is survived by a son, Nathan C.; brother, Arnold; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and many extended grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son, Mark E.; daughter, Anne K. Smith; sister, Beverly Nolan; granddaughter, Morgan Smith; and longtime companion, Mary Lazur.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Worcester County Humane Society, P.O. Box 48, Berlin, MD 21811. **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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Dan, who did some driving during his career prior to his eyesight issues, is happy to direct his attention on the training side of the business.

“I could get on the bike, knew what to do and when to do it, but I just couldn’t get it done,” he said. “Whatever move I was making, I’d be a half a second or a second too late, or too early. I enjoyed my end of it much, much better—doing the jogging and training and running the barn. I enjoyed that part much more. It’s the excitement of the whole thing. Getting a horse to go forward that wasn’t going forward before you got him, things like that.”

The stable has been a blessing for Dan as he battles his vision issues. He recently had a sixth surgery on his right eye to maintain his limited sight.

“It’s quite a grind,” he said. “It’s quite a change of life for a person when you can’t jump in your car and go someplace because I can’t really see good enough to drive. And you can’t sit behind a horse anymore. But thank God, I’ve got the horses. I can still get there and work around the barn. I can still do my thing in there. If I didn’t have that, I’d be out of my mind. That’s what keeps me going. It’s great to get up every day and do what you love.

“It’s been great for both of us, I think,” he added, referring to Wally. “When one of us is down and out, the other one is there. We’ve each got a shoulder to lean on, if need be. It’s been a good thing. He’s my best friend, and vice versa, besides working together. We’ve always got along great. It’s been a great relationship.”

Wally agreed.

“We’ve been a great team,” he said. “Dan is the glue. We’re not excuse-makers, either one of us, and we have the same drive for success.

“We’ve been together so long, you don’t even realize it. It’s just part of life. We’ve been blessed. At our ages, to still be able to do this and be able to compete, it speaks volumes. Maybe that’s why we’re still able to do it. We’ve been able to rely on each other. We’ve seen a lot of people come and go, for sure. We’re able to complement one another. It’s been great and I hope it keeps going for a little while longer.” **HB**

Ken Weingartner is the USTA Media Relations Manager. To comment on this story, email us at readerforum@ustrotting.com.