



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **WINSTAR, EVANS, TARRAS TOP WINNERS AT 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TOBA NATIONAL AWARDS DINNER**

LEXINGTON, Ky. – The Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association's (TOBA's) 26<sup>th</sup> Annual National Awards Dinner was held Friday at Gainesway Farm in Lexington, Ky. WinStar Farm and Edward Evans were honored with the top awards of the evening; the National Owner of the Year and the National Breeder of the year, respectively. Rudy and Virginia Tarra were honored as the National Small Breeder of the Year.

The TOBA Awards Dinner also honors the achievements of Thoroughbred owners in the four major North American racing regions and breeders in 28 states. In addition, the Rood & Riddle Thoroughbred Sport Horse of the Year award was presented to the owner of the ex-Thoroughbred racehorse that has accumulated the most points in competition, as tracked by the United States Equestrian Federation. For the second consecutive year, Tom and Becky Holder's, Courageous Comet, received the award.

A complete list of winners is as follows:

Eastern Region Owner of the Year: WinStar Farm  
Midwestern Region Owner of the Year: Brereton C. Jones  
Southern Region Owner of the Year: Claiborne Farm and Adele Dilschneider  
Western Region Owner of the Year: Zetcher Racing Stable

### **State Breeders of the Year:**

Flying P Ranch (Bobby Pruitt), Alabama  
Dennis Weir, Arizona  
Harris Farm (John Harris), California  
Dewey and Karen White, Georgia  
Virginia and Rudy Tarra, Illinois  
Robert and Erin Gorham, Indiana  
Sandra Rasmussen, Iowa  
Roland G. Jordan, Kansas  
Claiborne Farm & Adele Dilschneider, Kentucky  
Bill and Corinne Heiligbrodt, Louisiana  
Robert Meyeroff, Maryland  
Michael and Jane Fonzo, Massachusetts  
Deb Miley, Michigan  
Jeff and Deb Hilger, Minnesota  
John Petrini, New Jersey  
Chris and Tina Hourigan, New Mexico

Vivien Malloy, New York  
Tom Hendrickson, North Carolina  
Doug Demontigny, North Dakota  
Meadow Springs Farm (Pat Buse Jr.), Ohio  
C.R. Trout, Oklahoma  
Dr. Jack and Margaret Root, Oregon  
Franklin G. Smith, South Carolina  
Edward P. Evans, Virginia  
Jeff and Doris Harwood, Washington  
James Casey, West Virginia

**Canadian Breeder of the Year:**

Tod Mountain Thoroughbreds (Rae and Ronald Fawcett)

**National Broodmare of the Year:**

Liabile owned by Claiborne Farm and Adele Dilschneider

National Awards Dinner sponsors included Gainesway Farm, OCD Pellets, Kendall-Jackson Wine Estates, AmWest Entertainment, Woodford Reserve, GREY GOOSE Vodka, John Deere, Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC, Daily Racing Form and Blood-Horse Publications.

TOBA, based in Lexington, Ky., was formed in 1961 and is a national trade organization of leading Thoroughbred horse breeders and owners. TOBA's mission is to "*improve the economics, integrity and pleasure of the sport on behalf of Thoroughbred owners and breeders.*" Projects managed by TOBA include the American Graded Stakes Committee, Sales Integrity Program, The Racing Game and Claiming Crown. Thoroughbred Charities of America (TCA) is the charitable arm of TOBA. TOBA is the owner of The Blood-Horse Inc., and is represented on the Board of Directors of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association as a founding member.