



# RTCA NEWS & UPDATES



## HONORING EXTRAORDINARY COMPASSION: 2025 WHITE HORSE AWARD WINNERS

This year's honorees—Chino Gudino, Luis Gudino, and Doug Adams of Mountaineer Racetrack—remind us that heroism isn't always dramatic; sometimes, it's found in quiet moments of care and love that reflect the heart of the horse racing family.

The White Horse Award honors unsung heroes in the racing community—individuals whose courage and compassion uplift others. Since its inception in 2003, this tradition has celebrated acts of bravery and selflessness, whether lifesaving or deeply transformative.

### A STORY OF FRIENDSHIP AND SACRIFICE

The trio's journey began with a promise to a dear friend, Dennis VanMeter, a Vietnam veteran and longtime horseman at Mountaineer. When Dennis was diagnosed with terminal cancer, Chino, Luis, and Doug stepped in—not out of obligation, but out of love. They transformed his tack room into a peaceful sanctuary, ensuring Dennis spent his final days surrounded by dignity and care. They tended his horses, managed his barn, and fulfilled his wishes, offering companionship and comfort until his passing in September 2024.

Their devotion went far beyond daily chores; it was a testament to the profound spirit of family within racing—a community that rallies together in life's most difficult moments. Their actions exemplify the best core values of the racing community—love, respect, and steadfast support.



***"My dad spent his last days surrounded by people who truly loved him. Chino, Luis, and Doug gave him dignity, peace, and friendship when he needed it most. Our family will never forget what they did for him."***

***-Denise Roden, Dennis' Daughter***

*Watch  
THE  
Video*

*Click Here*

On November 18, RTCA Executive Director Dan Waits presented the White Horse Award trophy to Chino, Luis, and Doug at Mountaineer Race Track in a heartfelt ceremony with family and friends.

The winners were announced during RTCA's Night of Faith, Hope, and Love at Del Mar during Breeders' Cup week, where their tribute video premiered.

*Faith beyond the finish line*

RTCA Chaplains and staff across the country care for the humans behind the horse every day—just as God sees who we are behind the busyness of our lives, titles, responsibilities, wins, and fails. This year's White Horse Award story is a great example of humanity and love in the world. God's light still shines brightly, even when chaos and trouble come our way.

***"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."***

***Galatians 6:2***



## ➤➤➤ HONORING A SERVANT'S HEART: MINDY COLEMAN RECEIVES RTCA'S 2025 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

### A HEART FOR PEOPLE BEHIND THE SPORT

The Race Track Chaplaincy of America (RTCA) proudly recognized **Mindy Coleman** as the recipient of the **2025 Community Service Award** during its annual Night of Faith, Hope, and Love at Del Mar Thoroughbred Club on October 28, held during Breeders' Cup World Championships week. This award celebrates individuals whose generosity and commitment have profoundly impacted racetrack chaplaincy ministries and the broader horse racing community.



Mindy Coleman is widely respected for her role as counsel for the Jockeys' Guild, where she has long championed the rights and well-being of jockeys nationwide. Her influence, however, extends far beyond her professional responsibilities. As a National Ambassador for Race Track Chaplaincy of America, Mindy actively promotes its mission and devotes her time to initiatives that embody care and compassion within the racing industry. She volunteers with the Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund (PDJF), Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation (TRF), and Thoroughbred Charities of America (TCA). Since 2021, she has also served on the selection committee for the Thoroughbred Industry Employee Awards (TIEA), presented by Godolphin, ensuring that the contributions of behind-the-scenes workers receive the recognition they deserve.

Her dedication extends into her local community as well, where she serves on the boards of Miss Rodeo Kentucky and the Lexington Children's Theatre—reflecting a life committed to service and leadership. Those who know Mindy describe her as someone who leads with humility and a servant's heart—qualities that make her impact both profound and lasting.

## ➤➤➤ FAITH IN ACTION AT BREEDERS' CUP WEEK

On October 29th, RTCA's Board of Directors, Ambassadors, California Chaplaincy staff, volunteers, and partners served the backstretch community to welcome them to Breeders' Cup Week. Together, we provided 372 meals, shared beloved purple Breeders' Cup/RTCA shirts, and gifted Bibles, devotionals, and prizes—all as an expression of God's love for each individual.

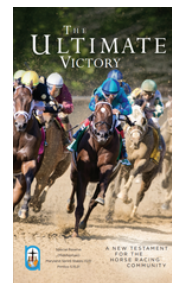


**Partnerships make impact!** We are especially thankful to Shannon Kelly and **The Jockey Club Safety Net** Foundation for sponsoring the lunch, and to **Breeders' Cup World Championships** for providing the iconic purple t-shirts that bring joy year after year.

Through your generous giving and service, we were able to bless the backstretch community and share God's Word in a meaningful way.



**This Christmas season, we're celebrating a wonderful gift! 10,000 copies of RTCA's New Testament Bible, *The Ultimate Victory*, are on their way to Chaplains—ready to bring hope, joy, and the message of Christ to those who need it most.**



✨ **Special thanks to Brad and Kirsten Ghaster for their generous donation that made this project possible. Your kindness is helping share the true meaning of Christmas with thousands!**

*Faith behind the service*

RTCA Chaplains, Ambassadors, staff, and volunteers believe that service reflects God's heart for humanity. Mindy's story reminds us that even in a fast-paced, competitive world, God calls us to pause and care for others. Her example shines as a beacon of hope and love in a time when the world often feels chaotic.



# RTCA NATIONAL EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

3



## UNITED IN PRAYER: A LOOK BACK AT RTCA'S 2025 NATIONAL PRAYER WALK

On September 20, 2025, RTCA Chaplains, staff, and supporters gathered at racetracks and ministry locations across the nation for the annual RTCA Prayer Walk. This Christ-centered event honors the legacy of RTCA founder Salty Roberts, who believed deeply in the power of prayer and personal ministry. Participants walked the grounds of their local tracks, praying for the horse racing industry and all the people who serve it—trainers, jockeys, grooms, security, gate crews, management, their families, and many, many more!

**The National Prayer Walk reminds us that God's presence and care extends to every corner of the racing industry.**







## >>> FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE SHINE BRIGHT: RTCA CELEBRATES A MEMORABLE EVENING AT BREEDERS' CUP

On October 28, Race Track Chaplaincy of America (RTCA) hosted its annual **RTCA Night of Faith, Hope, and Love**, at the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club during Breeders' Cup week—a night of fellowship and celebration! It reminded all in attendance the power of faith and the strength of unity.



[See more photos!](#)



The program featured keynote speaker **Bob Goff**, bestselling author and founder of Love Does, who captivated the audience with his trademark whimsical style—entertaining, funny, and deeply inspiring. Through humor and heartfelt stories, Bob reminded us that loving like Jesus is not just an idea but a daily practice. His message challenged everyone to lead with grace, embrace joy, and live with purpose.

As the sun set over Del Mar, the Trackside Chalet was filled with gratitude, encouragement, and hope—a powerful reminder that even in challenging times, God's light shines brightly through those who serve others with love.

### **PREPARE YOUR HEART FOR THE SEASON!**

ANTICIPATING CHRISTMAS:  
A 5-DAY ADVENT PLAN



### A MESSAGE OF HOPE

**"Do not be afraid. I bring you GOOD NEWS that will cause great joy for ALL the people! Today, in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord." Luke 2:10-11**

Over 2,000 years ago, a Light came into the darkness of the world. A Light that will never be extinguished.

Over 2,000 years ago, Hope entered the world. A Hope that is our rock and our refuge in times to trouble.

Over 2,000 years ago, a King entered the world. Not a King in a far off distant land, but a King who made Himself available to His people and laid down His life for them.

Over 2,000 years ago, Emmanuel, "God with us" entered the world. He didn't have to, but He loved us so much that He didn't want to be separated from us. So, He entered a world of pain, chaos, loneliness and fear to provide a way to the Father.

Over 2,000 years ago, a child was born to die for us. He is now risen and lives forever. And because of this, death has lost its sting for those who's hope, faith and trust is in Him.

This indeed is GOOD NEWS that brings great joy! Merry Christmas! May the hope of Jesus carry you today and always!



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