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Finalists for the 2019 Thoroughbred Industry Employee Awards announced

LEXINGTON, Ky. - The finalists for six of the now seven prestigious Thoroughbred Industry Employee Awards have been announced. The winner of the Thoroughbred Industry Community Award has already been decided as one prize is awarded in that category. This year's recipient is Bobby Lillis, Executive Director of the Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Foundation, Inc. and Director of Benefits for the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association.

A new category was added this year – to honor those in an administrative role – and this group of finalists, along with those in the other six categories, will be recognized at the awards ceremony luncheon graciously hosted once again by Keeneland on October 11th in Lexington, Kentucky.

The shortlist judging panel, the first of the two judging panels, met at the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, on Tuesday, August 13th, to decide the finalists and the Community Award winner. The second and final stage of judging will take place on October 10th, with a second judging panel deciding the winners in the six remaining categories.

Panel Chairman Dan Fick stated, "I was truly honored to again be a part of these meaningful awards, and on behalf of my fellow judges, let me offer sincere congratulations to Bobby Lillis, as well as to all the finalists and all of the nominees. Yet again, our job was a difficult one as the quality of the group from top to bottom was extremely high. All those involved, including the nominators, should be very proud of their participation this year.

"Godolphin and Sheikh Mohammed, in partnership with the National HBPA, TOBA, The Jockey Club and Breeders' Cup, have been underwriting these awards for four years now and they have quickly become a very important part of our industry's landscape. Without the support of Sheikh Mohammed, these hard-working individuals might not truly get the acknowledgement and recognition they deserve for the important work they do.

"I look forward to sitting down with each of the finalists when the final judging panel meets in October. And based on the strength of the nominees, we will certainly have our work cut out for us, but it will be an honor for all of us to meet these exceptional individuals in person."

The shortlist panel was comprised of: Chairman Dan Fick, Chairman of Racing Officials Accreditation Program; Ramiro Restrepo – Market Representative for Fasig-Tipton; Maggie Wolfendale – Paddock Analyst for the New York Racing Association; Cate Johnson – Director of the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame; Stuart Angus – Sales Account Manager at Taylor Made.

The finalists are:

Administration Award

Andrea Greathouse	Paramount Sales
Bessie Gruwell	Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association
Maria Catignani	Charles Town HBPA

Dedication to Breeding Award

Barrett Midkiff	Taylor Made Farm
Ernest Blair	Lane's End Farm
Steve Clark	Godolphin, LLC

Dedication to Racing Award

Cristobal Trejo	Tomlinson Thoroughbred Training LLC
Janeen Painter	Richard Mandella
Lesley McCall	Moquett Racing

Leadership – Breeding Award

Jenny Carpenter	Buttonwood Farm
Joe Peel	Claiborne Farm
Mark Cunningham	Airdrie Farm

Leadership – Racing Award

Destin Heath	WinStar Farm
Saul Castellanos	Mark Hennig Racing Stable
Thomas Brandebourger	Chad Brown

Newcomer Award

Amy Stokes	Godolphin, LLC
Courtney Schneider	Shawhan Place
Michael Norris	Katherine Ritvo

Thoroughbred Community Award Winner

Bobby Lillis	Executive Director of the Maryland Horsemen's Assistance Foundation Director of Benefits for the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Assoc.
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Notes to editors:

1. The Awards are sponsored by Godolphin in partnership with the National HBPA, TOBA, The Jockey Club and Breeders' Cup. Media partners are the TDN, Blood-Horse LLC, Daily Racing Form, The Paulick Report, and TVG. Keeneland will host the awards for the third time this year.

2. The winners of the two Breeding and two Racing categories, as well as the Administrative category, will receive a prize of \$7,500 with an additional \$2,500 being awarded to the winner's farm or stable. The two runners-up in these categories will win \$2,500 each, with the same amount going to their farm or stable.

3. The winner of the Newcomer Award will receive \$5,000 with \$2,000 going to the winner's farm or stable. The winner will also receive an all expensed-paid trip to Dubai. The two runners-up in this award will receive \$2,000 each with \$1,000 going to their farm or stable.

4. The winner of the Community Award will receive a prize of \$7,500 with an additional prize of \$5,000 going to the charity of their choice.

For more information, please contact:

Andy Schweigardt
Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association
andys@toba.org
888-606-TOBA
859-276-2291