

Old Friends

Thoroughbred Retirement in Georgetown, Kentucky

Accredited by Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA)



Spring 2020

A Message from Michael Blowen

We miss everyone.

It's so quiet that you can hear Ide munching carrots from Game On Dude and Little Mike's paddock. I think the horses miss all the attention bestowed on them by all of their fans.

Yesterday, I cut up 50 lbs. of carrots and tried to pretend I was more than one person. They were not fooled.

Aside from closing everything down, we've also cut back on all projects that don't directly benefit our retirees. All of our funds will be used for feed, vet care, medicine and payroll.

We know everyone's in the same boat. We're doing all we can to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Our primary inspiration is the realization that these great Thoroughbreds need us now more than ever.

I'm really going to miss our Memorial Day and Homecoming and all of the fun events that celebrate springtime in Kentucky. I'll miss Wise Dan Day. I'll miss supporters coming from all over the country to see us. I'll miss Bob Baffert and Jill Baffert's visit on the first Thursday in May and Jack Knowlton's plans for an Old Friends fundraiser in Louisville with the Sackatoga group.

But none of these events are cancelled - just postponed. I'm really looking forward to the fall when, if everything works out, we'll have these great events and the Breeders' Cup at Keeneland.

To try and fill the horse-fix void, we're planning some great Virtual Tours of the farm. Tune in to connect with some of your favorite Old Friends and maybe some you haven't met before.



Michael Blowen
President & Founder

In the meantime, I'll be cutting carrots, commending our magnificent staff, anticipating a bright future and depending on all of our Old Friends fans to keep us going during these trying times.

Stay safe and remember, whether you have two legs or four, we're all in this together.

Michael



Photo © Laura Battles

Meet two of our Old girlFriends:
\$2 million mare Saudi Poetry and Silver Charm's daughter, Classy Charm.
You are invited to join their Society! See Page 7 for details.

Daily Racing Form/Old Friends 2020 Magazine Has Arrived!

- Casting Call
- Three Generations of Silver Charm
- Kings of New York
- The Brilliance of Einstein
- Boys of Summer
- Little Silver Charm
- The Catbird's Seat
- Barbara Livingston photos
- . . . and more!

\$10.00

To order

Call: 502-863-1775

Web: oldfriendsequine.org



Meet Our New Old Friends

Your generosity has enabled us to welcome **7(!)** new deserving horses to Old Friends.

They come from many circumstances, with one thing in common—
your commitment has helped make the dignified retirement they deserve a reality.

We are excited to introduce you to:



© Old Friends Photo

Persie (7) is the 2018 National HBPA Claimer of the Year. He won 22 races in 69 starts and earned \$280,000 in his career.



© Old Friends Photo

Patch (6) is the one-eyed sensation from the 2017 Triple Crown trail, who finished third in the Belmont Stakes.



© Old Friends Photo

Doneraile Court (24) is a stakes-winner by Seattle Slew and was a sire in Florida.



© Tammy Crump Photo

Quiet Honor (18), a daughter of Kentucky Derby winner Real Quiet, won one race and produced nine foals in her broodmare career.



© Old Friends Photo

Stormy Liberal (8) twice won the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint and earned \$2.2 million.



© Old Friends Photo

Pollard's Vision (19), our newest retiree, is a racing millionaire, and the sire of Champion Blind Luck.



© Old Friends Photo

Brilliant Decision (5) won one race and is a grandson of our very own Ogygian.



Sadly, we have said farewell to Geronimo, Shadow Caster, WC Jones, Cajun Beat and Euronfire.

We were ♥ honored ♥ to serve them.

© Laura Battles Photos

Remembering War Emblem

February 20, 1999—March 11, 2020

by Cynthia Grisolia

Michael Blowen: "We're very grateful to Mr. Yoshida and all of the fans who helped get War Emblem to Old Friends nearly five years ago. I know we're supposed to appreciate all of our retirees the same but he was one of the very special ones. He was tough, narcissistic, bold, and handsome. I adored him. I proudly count among a very meager number of accomplishments the day he allowed me to put his halter on without biting me. He trusted me. What more could I ask for? The farm will recover from his loss over time, but it'll never be the same."



*April 6, 2002 Illinois Derby
May 4, 2002 Kentucky Derby
May 18, 2002 Preakness at Pimlico
August 4, 2002 Haskell Invitational*

He came with a warning, like a pack of cigarettes or a piece of heavy machinery: He's dangerous, he'll kill you, beware. The great War Emblem, they said, was as charcoal black on the inside as he was on the outside. The lightning fast Kentucky Derby-Preakness champion arrived from Japan in the winter of 2015, and, at first, lived up to his rep: After 30 days at Rood and Riddle he stubbornly declined to breed a test mare as the USDA demands. As was his usual stance, he just said, "No," leaving us no choice but to geld the mighty



stallion. We double fenced his paddock in an effort to keep visitors a safe distance from his jaws.

He was fidgety and paced a lot, as if to say, "What am I doing here?" But time passed, and so did his anxiety. Tim [farm manager Wilson] worked with him often, letting him know people can be alright (really). Fans admired him daily. And Michael brought carrots nightly—peace offerings, that



led, eventually, to a sort of holy communion. We never turned a back on him, just

in case, but it didn't take us long to figure out that he just wanted what he wanted when he wanted it, and then he wanted nothing more. (Was that so hard?) In March

he left us without any warning, like an outlaw on the run. Just days after his 21st

birthday he laid down in his paddock in the shady corner he preferred, and left quietly

and on his own terms. We still don't know exactly what felled our champ, but we do know

it was an internal issue that was out of the ordinary. We weren't surprised. There wasn't anything ordinary about War Emblem.

The World according to Little Silver Charm

When I heard that due to the spread of the COVID-19 virus Old Friends will be closed to tours for the immediate future, my first thought was: Oh no! My fans will be tearing down the gates to get into the farm to see me! Why must they suffer? More important, why must I suffer? Why should my fans be deprived of the opportunity of a lifetime, the chance to meet me in person? And why should I be deprived of their adoration, to say nothing of their carrots?

However I have since come to understand that the virulent nature, so to speak, of this nasty virus made shutting down our tours a necessity, a step we had to take to protect our visitors, volunteers and staff. I feel compelled to note - and probably this is obvious - that it took nothing less than an international disaster of epic proportions to prevent my many friends and fans from visiting Old Friends to bask in my presence. And to meet the other horses, of course.

My good friend (Big) Silver Charm explained to me that horses, large and small, do not contract the virus, so the Old Friends herd is not in danger. He reassured me that most things here won't change. We'll still be fed twice a day—three times a day, in some cases. The bald guy will still come around everyday with buckets of carrots. We'll snack of the



fresh grass. We'll frolic and race and roll in the mud. We just won't have an audience.

So for the near future, I will not have the opportunity to greet people, which is almost as much my loss as theirs. Until Old Friends re-opens, which I hope will be very soon, I will concentrate on performing the duties that have made me such an important member of the Old Friends team. Chief among these is helping our new arrivals adjust to retirement. The transition is easy, for some. Patch, for example, fell into the routine immediately. Carrots? Did somebody say carrots? Others, I will mention no names—have not been as easy.

CALLING ALL SILVER CHARM FANS!

We have great news! Diane White is writing a book about our favorite gray Kentucky Derby winner, and you are invited to participate. Tell us how Silver Charm has affected your life.

What does he mean to you?

Got a story?

Send your content

(under 50 words, please) & photos to:

diane@oldfriendsequine.org



**The February 22 morning tour helped
SILVER CHARM celebrate his 26th birthday.
SAY CHEESE!**



**Run-In Shed sponsored by
*California Chrome's Legacy of Love***

**In January, Arson Squad & Fighting City Hall's
run-in shed was destroyed in a wind storm.
Billy D. constructed this brand-new model.
Billy Built—Arson & City Hall Approved**

In 2020 Old Friends welcomed three very special new retirees. We thought they'd like to introduce themselves in their own words. Here they are, in order of appearance (on the farm).

PATCH

Who am I? Patch, a 6-year-old gelding by Belmont Stakes winner Union Rags. My Mom was WindyIndy, whose dad was the great A.P. Indy, who also won the Belmont. (Hey, RIP, gramps.)

Career Recap: I was owned by Calumet farm and trained by Todd Pletcher and raced for three-seasons. I'm graded stakes placed, but the coolest thing was running in the 2017 Kentucky Derby. I was 30-1 but I was bet down to 14-1, even though I didn't have a chance. But everybody loved me because I lost my left eye when I was only two-years-old and it made me a sweet underdog. Being blind on one side never bothered me much except while driving (only kidding). I finished 14th in that race behind winner Always Dreaming. I got to run in the Belmont, too. It's a family tradition.

After the races: Being a gelding with one eye, there was not much to do. So Michael let me come here to Old Friends and be an "Ambassador". So far it's a good gig, but I'm still waiting on my business cards. Apparently I have a lot of fans—at least I assume that's who keeps coming by with the carrots. *Sweeeeet!*

Fun Fact: After I lost my eye, Todd used to make noise in barn so that I would be startled if he came up on blind side. What a guy.

STORMY LIBERAL

Who am I? Stormy Liberal, the 8-year-old gelded son of Stormy Atlantic. My Mom was Vassar and her Dad was Royal Academy, who won the Breeders' Cup Mile (but more on that later).

Career Recap: I was running in the claiming ranks in 2016, but I knew I was born for higher things. I was claimed for \$40,000 by trainer Peter Miller and owner Rockingham Ranch. To pay them back I raced all over the world and I won—like my grandfather before me-- the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup, though mine was the Turf Sprint cause I'm fast and furious. And not once, but twice-- in 2017 and in 2018. For my efforts, I earned the 2018 Eclipse Award for Champion Turf Male Yeah, I rule! I didn't have a great year in 2019—couldn't win a race. I hear they fought over me, but clearer heads finally prevailed. Last year my new owner, David Bernsen, had me checked out by the docs—and I mean checked out. Turns out I has some issues that would have led to serious injury. So he made the decision to retire me from racing. I left the game with 12 wins from 37 starts and just over \$2.2 million in purses. Ka-ching, right?

After the Races: I was promised to Old Friends and here I am, doing my part for the aftercare thing.

#yougottagivebackdude

Fun Fact: I became my father's 100th black-type winner when I won the Clocker's Corner Stakes in 2017. You're welcome.

POLLARD'S VISION

Who am I? Pollard's Vision, a 19-year-old stallion by Carson City. My Mom was Etats Unis, whose dad was Dixieland Band.

Career Recap: Bred in Kentucky by Charles A. Smith, I was campaigned by owner Edgewood Farm and trainer Todd Pletcher. I broke my maiden as a 2-year-old at Saratoga in only my second start. At three, I captured my first stakes, the Grade 2 Illinois Derby where I ran wire-to-wire. Then the big time: I Ran for the Roses in 2004, but I finished 17th behind Smarty Jones (not my best day). But I came back to capture the Grade 3 Lone Star Derby, the Grade 3 Leonard Richards Stakes, and, as a 4-year-old, the Grade 3 National Jockey Club Handicap. Woo hoo!

After the races: I got hurt in 2005 while in the Grade 1 Whitney Handicap at Saratoga. Bummer. So I went to work as a stallion (nice work if you can get it) first at Wintergreen Farm in Kentucky then Waldorf Farm in N.Y., and in 2015 I went to Mighty Acres in Pryor, OK. That career is over, so here I am chillin' at Old Friends.

Claim to Fame: My daughter is six-time Grade 1 winner, Eclipse Champion, and 2020 Hall of Fame nominee Blind Luck!

Fun Fact: I have been blind in his right eye since I was a foal, and was named after Seabiscuit jockey Red Pollard. He was blind in one eye, too.



8 Ways to Keep Up With Your Old Friends

Old Friends Website: www.oldfriendsequine.org

Twitter: @Oldfriendsfarm

Check out our Old Friends(s) of the Day, farm news and more

Facebook: @oldfriendsequine

Videos, photos, farm news and more

You Tube: Old Friends Videos linked on our website home page
Virtual Tours

Old Friends Virtual Farm Tours: posted to YouTube and Facebook

E-Newsletters: do we have your email address?

Snail Mail: Old Friends Newsletter

Old Friends Blog: on our website home page

Old Friends Life



Alphabet Soup & Gorgeous George



Nicanor



Does this fence make our butts look big?



Nap Time for Rapid Redux & Amazombie



*Summer Attraction, Slamming
& Disturbingthepeace*



Game On Dude



Green Mask



Silver Charm Heading in for Dinner

Photos © Laura Battles



How You Can Help Old Friends



Champions for Charity

Breeders' Cup and Maker's Mark
2020 Honoree To Be Announced

A handful of signed, commemorative bottles remain at \$400 each:

Lure • Cigar • D. Wayne Lukas • Mike Smith

A portion of the proceeds benefits Old Friends

Clubhouse Annual Membership

Your \$150 membership includes leather & brass keytag, free tours, discount admission to Homecoming in May, and free general admission to Kentucky Derby Museum in Louisville, KY & National Museum of Racing & Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, NY.



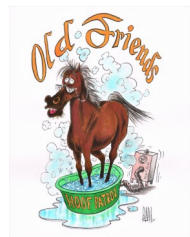
The Hoof Patrol

Support the 500+ hooves of Old Friends retirees who have short/long-term hoof issues. Hoof Patrol keychain, email updates, videos & more!

Bronze (\$50)

Silver (\$125) • Gold (\$250)

Membership levels



Old girlFriends Society

Do you appreciate great mares? Your \$100 lifetime membership donation includes an 8 x 10 photo of one of our *Old girlFriends*, an annual visit to the mares paddock, and your name on the *Old girlFriends* web page!



Shares for Life

Show your love for an Old Friends horse! Donate \$100 to support your favorite horse and you'll receive a photo of your horse & a certificate suitable for framing.



Friends for All Seasons

Is monthly giving right for you? Do you believe in dignified equine retirement to a forever home and the value of steadfast, reliable partnerships? Sign up as a monthly donor & receive a gift of Old Friends bookmarks.



Thank You for Supporting Our Horses!

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

General Donation \$ _____

Clubhouse Annual Membership (\$150.00) _____

The Hoof Patrol \$ _____

Gold (\$250) Silver (\$125) Bronze (\$50)

Shares for Life (\$100.00) Horse: _____

Little Silver Charm & Gorgeous George (\$25.00 each)

Old girlFriends Society (\$100.00) _____

Friend for All Seasons Monthly Donor (credit card)

Indicate amount to be charged monthly \$ _____

Other \$ _____ Purpose _____

☐ Check enclosed ☐ Credit Card

Account number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ CVV# _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Old Friends is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.
Your contribution is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

1841 Paynes Depot Road, Georgetown, KY 40324
(502) 863-1775 • oldfriendsequine.org

Old Friends

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Old Friends is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to providing safe harbor & dignified retirement to Thoroughbreds whose racing & breeding careers have come to an end.



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Old Friends Tour Menu

Tour Availability Subject to Compliance with COVID-19 Government Public Gathering Guidelines & Limitations

Important Notice

**Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic,
Old Friends tours are suspended until further notice.**



Our primary concern is the safety of our horses, staff, community, supporters and friends.

Old Friends will re-open to the public when Kentucky state and local government officials deem it safe to do so.

For updates on tour availability, please check our website or call our office at 502-863-1775.

In the meantime, you can tune in to our social media outlets on YouTube, Facebook, and

Twitter to check out our new

Virtual Tours. Watch us bring Old Friends to you!



TOUR INFORMATION

We typically offer the following tour types. As events warrant, they may be altered or be unavailable. Please call 502-863-1775 for current information.



GENERAL TOUR

Guided walking tour

PRIVATE TOUR

Guided tour for your private party

OLD FRIENDS FOUNDER'S TOUR

with Michael Blowen

GROUP TOURS

for tour buses and large groups