

Life with Old Friends

spring 2024



Eclipse Award-Winning Thoroughbred Retirement
in
Georgetown, Kentucky



Photo © Laura Battles

Silver Charm, Kentucky Derby Elder Statesman, at 30.

BREAKING NEWS

I'll Have Another, 2012 Kentucky Derby Winner, Retires to Old Friends

Old Friends is thrilled to announce the March 20 early morning arrival of Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner I'll Have Another.



Old Friends Photo

I'll Have Another is the fourth Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes winner to be retired to the farm, following Silver Charm, War Emblem and Charismatic.

"It is fantastic that he will have a permanent home at Old Friends where everyone can visit him," said owner Paul Reddam. "There was a lot of concern when he went to Japan for stud duty and that is permanently put to rest with his return to Kentucky."

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Eyes Forward—the First 49 with John Nicholson

At long last there was that late February day that teased springtime. After days of cold, wet, grey days, finally it was blue skies and warm sunshine.

I decided to grab a big supply of Mrs. Pastures cookies and leave my temporary digs at the Abercrombie Center and go on foot to the deepest regions of Dream Chase.

For the next couple of hours I explored corners I had not yet seen, discovered those special places that give our farm its unique character and I was able to introduce myself to dozens and dozens of the horses that I have committed to serve.



Photo © Mary Greene

Passing the torch from Founder Michael Blowen to new CEO John Nicholson, as overseen by Red Knight.

It's not like I had any doubts before, but in those two blissful hours on that radiant day I was more sure than ever that I had made one of the best decisions of my life in choosing to be a part of Old Friends.

The days before and after that serene stroll have been nothing less than exhilarating. I can truly say that I have had fun and been uplifted everyday.

I said when I took the job of President of Old Friends that I was going to study at the University of Blowen and learn from all the professors that work and volunteer there. These opening days have been a whirlwind of meetings, greetings and calls with so many of the special people who have made Old Friends what it has become. If Michael had ideas of beginning an easy, relaxed retirement, he has been sorely mistaken. I have

Continued on Page 3

Meet Our Newest Old Friends



We are excited to introduce you to our newest Old Friends, ready to begin the next chapter in their lives. 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 these **9** new Old Friends:



Photo © Laura Battles

Red Knight (10) made 38 starts with 12 wins in a seven-year career. His biggest win came at Belmont in the (G1) Man o' War in 2023. Retired to Old Friends in November, he shares a paddock with fellow turf star, Channel Maker.



Photo © Laura Battles

Channel Maker (10) won an Eclipse Award as 2020's Champion Grass Male, and was a three-year old champion in Canada. He retired to Old Friends in November, and is spending his days running around with another turf star, Red Knight.



Photo © Laura Battles

Foliage (6) won two races in a career cut short by injury. Thanks to excellent surgical care from Dr. Patty Hogan, and the dedication of Lorita Lindemann, Foliage has recovered and arrived in November.



Photo © Mary E. Greene

Noble Indy (9) won the (G2) Louisiana Derby before falling on hard times in Puerto Rico. Thanks to the persistence of Caribbean Thoroughbred Aftercare and former owner, Mike Repole, Noble Indy came home to start the next chapter of his life—retirement!



Photo © Mary E. Greene

Alpha (15) found racing success winning the (G1) Travers and (G1) Woodward before standing stud in New York and Brazil. Returned to the U. S. by owner Godolphin, Alpha retired to Old Friends in December.



Photo © Old Friends

Jack A Rose (6) won three races and \$87,430 before injury ended his career. Another surgical success story from Dr. Patty Hogan, Jack spend the summer recovering and moved in to his forever retirement home in December. Welcome home, Jack!



Photo © Old Friends

Dawood (9) raced from coast-to-coast, winning three races and \$50K in four years at the track. Physical issues meant a career as a pleasure horse didn't work out, retirement at Old Friends became his best option. He arrived in February.

Shaky Pants (4) came to us from the barn of trainer Joe Sharp after suffering an injury at the track. Read more about Shaky Pants and Hogan's Heroes on Pages 7-9.



C Z Rocket (10), earned \$2 million and was a G1 winner who lost interest in racing in early 2024. Great owners listened to him and he retired to Old Friends in February.

Photos © Mary E. Greene

I'll Have Another Continued

“Welcoming I’ll Have Another is an auspicious and historic moment for Old Friends,” said John Nicholson, president and CEO of Old Friends. “We are deeply grateful to Paul Reddam and Doug O’Neill for choosing Old Friends to care for this great champion and to celebrate his magnificent legacy with thousands of our annual visitors. Being able to welcome our fourth Kentucky Derby winner to retire at Old Friends is further tribute to the vision and values of our founder and my friend, Michael Blowen.”



Old Friends Photo

John and Michael welcome I'll Have Another.

Preakness winner a safe, healthy, and fun retirement,” said Michael Blowen, founder and past president of Old Friends. “We’re planning to put I’ll Have Another in the paddock adjacent to Lava Man’s. How cool is that?”

Old Friends Executive Officers

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 Georgetown, KY 40324
 (502) 863-1775 • oldfriendsequine.org

Old Friends is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.



We have sadly said good-bye to these wonderful Old Friends. It was our privilege to care for them.
Photos © Laura Battles

	
<i>Spensive</i> <i>2000-2024</i>	<i>With This Ring</i> <i>1993-2024</i>
	
<i>Sun King</i> <i>2002-2023</i>	<i>Tom's Ready</i> <i>2013-2023</i>
	
<i>Work All Week</i> <i>2009-2023</i>	<i>Alotofloat</i> <i>2001-2024</i>

The First 49 Continued

kept him very busy with countless introductions and endless questions and inquiries. And yet each day has been an absolute blast and rarely have I felt so energized and greatly optimistic about the future.

We seem to be in the midst of a blessed time at Old Friends. The leadership transition between myself and Michael is going better than even we imagined. We had a memorable and historic Old Friends gathering in February to celebrate Silver Charm’s and Touch Gold’s 30th birthdays. Speaking of historic moments, today we welcomed our fourth Kentucky Derby winner to the farm with the arrival of I’ll Have Another.

These events, all in the opening weeks of 2024 signal that we are not only in the midst of a great year for Old Friends, but we are on the precipice of a transformational era. There are exciting ideas and endeavors being developed that promise important new chapters in the young, but storied, history of Old Friends.

It is gratifying to feel the energy and enthusiasm among so many within the Old Friends family. It has also been especially gratifying to have received so many heartfelt expressions of support as I begin this new chapter. It leaves me back to feeling as I did when I returned from my two hour walk across the farm: deeply grateful that I have the privilege of working with such a remarkable group of people while serving the horses who have given so much to us.”

John Nicholson

John Nicholson Takes The Reins

With the end of 2023, which was the 20th anniversary of the opening of Old Friends, Michael Blowen, our Founder, announced he was stepping down as President. On February 1, our long-time friend, John Nicholson, assumed the reins as President and CEO.

John is best known in Kentucky as the Executive Director of the Kentucky Horse Park, a position he held from 1997-2014. He led the largest expansion in the history of the Park, and in 2010 served as President of the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, while hosting the event at the Park. In addition, John spearheaded the expansion of the National Horse Center, which today consists of offices and headquarters of 33 national, regional, and state equine organizations.

After leaving his position at the Kentucky Horse Park in 2014, John spent five years as the Chief Executive Officer of the Virginia Horse Center, in Lexington, VA, bringing financial stability, renovations and upgrades to the Center's facilities, and increased support from the regional horse community.

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity of joining the Old Friends family to continue and enhance Michael's vision and values. Old Friends has been at the vanguard of the Thoroughbred Aftercare movement, and I feel privileged to be a part of such an important cause.

"I have always had a deeply felt respect and appreciation for Michael's vision and tenacity. What he has accomplished is beyond remarkable. I have treasured our friendship over the years, especially having had a great collaborative relationship between Old Friends and the Kentucky Horse Park. He and I have always shared a spirit that the horse has given far more to us than we could ever give in return.

"I will always work to cement the culture and philosophy that Michael has espoused and established. If our hearts and minds stay focused on the wellbeing of the horse, then there will always be a growing and thriving Old Friends." - - *John Nicholson*

1997 TRIPLE CROWN BIRTHDAY BASH

Happy
Birthday

ON FEBRUARY 24,
WE CELEBRATED
THE 30TH BIRTHDAYS OF
1997 TRIPLE CROWN
RACE WINNERS SILVER
CHARM AND TOUCH GOLD.
THEY RECEIVED 197
CARDS, FOUR CAKES, AND
LOTS OF CARROTS!
THANK YOU TO ALL WHO
SENT WELL WISHES AND
PARTIED WITH US!



The Way Home

by Rick Capone and Barbara Fossum

On December 7, 2023, Noble Indy stepped off a horse van in Georgetown, Kentucky. It marked the conclusion of a long odyssey travelling from Puerto Rico to his native state, and the beginning of retired life at his forever home, Old Friends. Along the way, the eight-year-old bay gelding benefitted from generous people stepping up to help him:

- Fred Hart, a big fan of Noble Indy due to his ownership of the horse's dam, Noble Maz;
- Kelley Stobie, Caribbean Thoroughbred Aftercare (CTA), assists horses in Puerto Rico;
- Mike Repole, Noble Indy's owner when he won the Louisiana Derby, and who paid to transport the horse home to the U.S.;
- And, Noble Indy's breeder, WinStar Farms, who contributed financially to his return trip.



Noble Indy scored his first graded-stakes victory in March 2018 in the Twinspires.com Louisiana Derby (G2) at Fair Grounds. That win punched his ticket to the Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (G1) at Churchill Downs, where he finished 17th. The once promising thoroughbred was never able to recapture his

pre-Derby form and began to drop down the racing ranks. Noble Indy won one race in 2019 and 2020 and failed to score in 2021 and 2022. In May 2022, Noble Indy changed ownership and he was shipped to Puerto Rico, where he made five starts at Camarero Race Track without winning.

It was around this time that Hart got involved and wanted to retire Noble Indy. He contacted Stobie, and the two worked together to try and retire the horse. The main challenge was the high price that the owner, Skull Stable PR, was asking, until an injury to Noble Indy resulted in a lower price. In early November 2023, CTA completed the purchase, and Noble Indy was retired and sent to Stobie's farm.

While with Stobie, Noble Indy had visits from a farrier, an equine dentist, and saw a veterinarian for vaccinations and blood tests to verify he was negative for PIROplasmiasis, an endemic tick disease prevalent in the Caribbean. When all was



*Photo (left) © CTA at Stobie Farm, Puerto Rico
Photo (above) © Laura Battles at Old Friends*

completed, Noble Indy was cleared to enter quarantine and start the long journey to retirement.

"We are all very excited that Noble Indy will spend the rest of his life at Old Friends in Kentucky," said Repole. "This was an amazing team effort by so many to bring Noble Indy back from Puerto Rico and to give him the great retirement that he deserves."

Added Michael Blowen, "Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to allow us to enjoy Noble Indy's retirement. His story will make him a magnet for racing fans."

***Caribbean Thoroughbred Aftercare (CTA) is a 501(c)(3) accredited by the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance.
www.ctahorse.com***

Hogan's Heroes

by Dr. Patty Hogan, VMD

Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Surgeons

Dr. Patty Hogan is one of the best friends a racehorse can have. Just ask new Old Friends residents Foliage, Shaky Pants and Jack A Rose, who make up a trio of horses on the farm affectionately known as Hogan's Heroes. They owe their lives to Dr. Hogan and the caring staff of Hogan Equine Clinic at Pheasant Hill Farm in New Jersey. With Gratitude and Thanks, from Old Friends Farm

I have always wanted to help with the aftercare problem ever since I became aware of it in the mid-90s when I first started my veterinary career here in NJ. At the time, there was very little organized structure to address this issue, and with my first experience it was actually a group of concerned ladies getting together and holding bake sales to help one horse at Monmouth Park.

It did not take me long to realize how big this problem was. What a daunting task to bring about awareness within the industry and try to get aftercare incorporated as an essential element into the big picture of racing's business model.



At the time, I worked for someone else and had very little autonomy to contribute pro-bono services, but once I started my own practice in 2007, that all changed. I decided that this issue really needed a 'grand gesture', and a discount on a veterinary bill was just not going to make enough of a difference. So my policy was to offer surgical and medical services to these aftercare groups 100% free-of-charge. Horses have really made my life, and it is just something of value I feel I can give back to them and really affect some change.

We work with all of the aftercare and rescue groups throughout the Northeast, and if there is a horse with an injury, and surgery could make a tangible difference in its ability to enjoy a 2nd career, we provide it. The cost of a surgical repair can really wipe out what is already a tight

Jack A Rose

Bay Gelding

Birth Date: April 18, 2018

Midshipman—No Flowers by Scat Daddy

Arrived Old Friends: December 5, 2023



Jack a Rose suffered an injury of the left-hind fetlock joint (ankle) and cannon bone in April 2023 at PARX Racing. Dr. Hogan performed an Arthrodesis procedure using a locking plate and 13 screws and wire. Surgery went extremely well and after months of uneventful recovery, Jack A Rose has no exercise restrictions. This is a very special horse and it was an absolute privilege for all of us to know him and have the opportunity to care for him!



Photo © Mary Greene

Jack Arrives to Retired Life at Old Friends

Foliage

Bay Gelding

Birth Date: March 31, 2018

Speightstown—Greenery by Galileo (IRE)

Arrived Old Friends: November 3, 2023



Foliage incurred a serious fracture to his right-front cannon bone at Saratoga Race Course in New York. Additional digital radiographs taken upon arrival confirmed a significant lateral condylar fracture. There was also an axial sesamoid fracture associated with the lateral sesamoid bone. Surgery went very well and the fracture was repaired with three screws. After several months of stall rest, hand-grazing, and limited turn-out, he was fully-weight-bearing, and very bright with a great appetite. All of the marked soft tissue swelling and bruising dissipated nicely. Follow-up radiographs have shown very nice reduction of the fracture at the joint surface and excellent compression. This was a severe injury with some significant joint disease that precludes any type of athletic soundness.



Photo © Mary Greene

Foliage, home at Old Friends

budget for these groups, so I figured we will just jump-start the process for them, and monies raised can be better applied for the rehab and placement costs. They never get a bill from us. We have averaged over \$100k/year in free services for the past 15 years. I feel it is the best money we have ever spent.

We review many, many cases for these groups and sometimes surgery is not the right option. In that situation we make appropriate recommendations for care, rehab, and levels of placement. The cases we take on are the ones where surgery will fix the problem, make a tangible difference, and result in a good outcome for a 2nd career. In many cases, those would involve screw placement for fracture repair, or arthroscopic surgery for removal of chip fractures in a joint. Our objective is to take a fixable problem, address it, and send the horse out the door with a good prognosis for a 2nd career.

The biggest hurdle we face now is really that of education. We are focused on stressing to owners and trainers the negative effects of chasing the "one last race syndrome" - where continuing on with a racing career does more damage to the horse, making it less of a candidate for a 2nd career, and is economically a losing situation for the connections. The horse is not a viable racehorse yet continues to cost money to keep in training, and the physical ailments it has will continue to propagate into something that eventually renders it unplaceable into a 2nd career option.

As difficult a decision as it can be, we try to avoid repairing horses that have very severe injuries or advanced arthritis to a degree where a 2nd career is just not possible, no matter what we do. We feel horses need and should have a job in order to maintain a value and purpose to their lives and the ones who consistently fall thru the cracks and end up in dire situations are the ones with chronic lameness, suitable only for pasture life.

There have been a few exceptions to our rule of avoiding complicated repairs on horses whose only outcome would be a pasture-soundness situation. These have been horses that have had a guaranteed quality home for life and we were

comfortable contributing to that for them. Two of those cases ended up at probably the best quality home for life that a horse could wish for - Old Friends! Shaky Pants and Foliage had severe orthopedic injuries that required complex repairs for a pasture-sound prognosis. Knowing they had a lifetime home arranged at Old Friends made our decision to help easy.

Jack A Rose was notable in every sense of the word - he incurred a breakdown injury to a hind fetlock and required a life-saving salvage procedure called a fetlock arthrodesis. That is a very expensive and extensive surgery with a long rehab that I could never justify donating for a horse to live a

- - Continued on Page 8

pasture-sound life. However Jack had a guardian angel in owner Lisa Nowak, and she scrimped, borrowed, and saved to get this horse thru and on to his new life at Old Friends. Jack was a very kind and special horse, did everything just right following surgery, and never looked back.



Jack A Rose—Sound, Happy and Sprinting to Retirement!

With nearly 30-years experience as an equine veterinarian, I truly feel horses have a sense of trust of certain people, and I know they can tell when someone is helping them. It is incredibly rewarding to take in a horse that is in pain, is uncertain, and nervous - and by addressing its injury and providing care, you can visibly appreciate the immediate sense of calm once that horse realizes it is safe and in a good place. It is something I will never stop being amazed by and I consider it a real privilege to be that person to make a difference to that particular horse. It never gets old.

My staff is heavily invested in this process. These horses are afforded the exact same care as a Classics contender. There is no scrimping on care, equipment, or supplies and I think everyone here feels a sense of pride and responsibility to be able to pay-it-forward to the horses who have really provided all of us with a life and solid career. We consistently follow-up on the outcomes for these horses and share pictures and updates of their lives and exploits off the track. It is immensely rewarding to all of us and often very touching to see such wonderful outcomes.

I can't express how touching it was to see that Foliage, Jack, and Shaky Pants all ended up together in the same paddock at Old Friends! Myself and all of the staff here had tears in our eyes seeing the videos of them running and playing together - all of them sound and happy.



Photo © Hogan Equine Clinic

It really is a wonderful example of what can be done when people who love horses - the owners, trainers, grooms, veterinarians, shippers, after-care groups, you name it - all come together and pay-it-forward for the horses who make our sport go round. ♥

*To learn more about Dr. Hogan and Hogan Equine Clinic:
hoganequine.com*

Shaky Pants

Chestnut Gelding

Birth Date: March 22, 2020

Bee Jersey—La Soul by Perfect Soul (IRE)

Arrived Old Friends: January 4, 2024

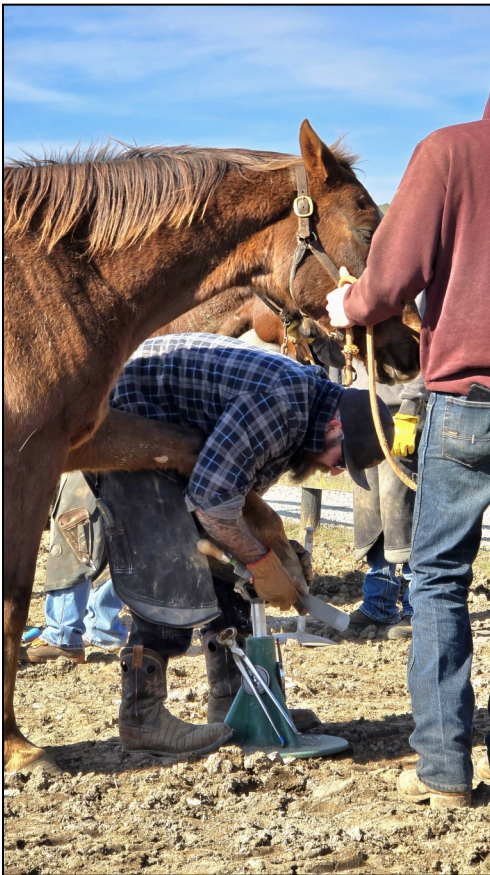


Shaky Pants arrived from New York's Saratoga Race Course mildly lame on the left-front limb with obvious swelling of the lower knee. Digital radiographs revealed a complete, comminuted, and displaced frontal plane slab fracture. Pre-operative films of the right knee revealed a single screw that was evidence of a previous slab fracture repair in this knee. The base fracture in the left-front was repaired with two 3.5-mm screws, and the surgery went very well. As with all carpal slab fractures, there is a certain degree of arthritis that will naturally occur as a result of the fracture. For racing, he would have a guarded prognosis - especially with the condition the right-front knee is in. After 30 days of stall rest, then the gradual addition of daily hand-walking and paddock exercise, Shaky Pants was ready to depart for retired life.



Photo © Hogan Equine Clinic

Shaky Pants departs New Jersey for retirement.



*Through the camera
lens of
Mary E. Greene
& Laura Battles*

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Thanks to your unfailing generosity, we know we'll be able to meet the needs of our more than 250+ retirees now and in the months to come. Today, more than ever you make a world of difference to their world.

Thank You!

The World according to *Little Silver Charm*

It's easy to be smug and complacent when you know you're the cutest animal on the farm. And I have been the cutest creature at Old Friends since I first set hoof here, more than 20 years ago.

Cuteness has always been my calling card, if you will. Not that it's my only strong point. I am an invaluable member of the Old Friends team, the hardest working horse on the farm. As well as the cutest.



Recently, though, my complacency about my cuteness has been shaken by a kitten.

Mary Greene, our Jill-of-All-Trades, was taking photographs when a beautiful gray cat ran out of a barn and asked for help. Mary picked her up and carried her back to the office, where she proceeded to eat everything offered. They named her Pearl, because it was Pearl Harbor Day.

It soon became obvious that Pearl was expecting kittens. Michael and Diane moved her into their house and introduced her to their cat family. Pearl wanted nothing to do with any of them. She sequestered herself in a closet.

On January 6 Pearl gave birth to one kitten, Mini Pearl. I think Mini Pearl's arrival has been, for this little horse, a test of character. I have to admit she's adorable.

I don't mind everyone exclaiming over her cuteness. Because I know it won't last. Whereas I plan to go on being cute for years to come.

LSC

The 2024 Daily Racing Form/ Old Friends Magazine in Here

Hot Off The Press!

Featuring:

- Lava Man
- Bold and Bossy
- Old Friends Indeed: Michael Blowen and Ercel Ellis
- The Ms. Josephine Abercrombie Center
- Any Given Saturday
- John Nicholson: It's About the Horse
- Hands on with Dr. Bryan Waldrige
- Featured Horses
- Little Silver Charm
- Saying Goodbye
- Barbara Livingston: Life at Old Friends
- Cover Boys Channel Maker and Red Knight

\$15.00— Includes Shipping
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GUIDING GURUS

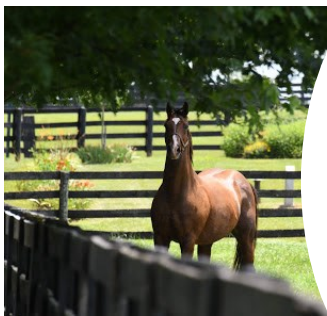
If you have visited Old Friends and taken a tour, you have met one of our wonderful volunteer tour guides. They are unrivaled when it comes to greeting visitors, showing them around the farm, and sharing—with compassion and enthusiasm, not to mention great aplomb--the tales of victories, agonies of defeats, and human narratives behind the careers of our equine athletes. Come out for a tour and let our guides introduce you to our fabulous retirees!



Steve with Green Mask

I grew up in Chicago, and have been a racing fan since the early 1970's. I have worked the Keeneland sales, researched pedigrees for sales catalogs, bought, owned and bred broodmare prospects, and am currently a VIP concierge for Twinspires.com. In 2017 I began hosting Old Friends tours, molding my tours to the guests' knowledge and interest of horses and thoroughbred racing. I love feeding carrots to the horses and sharing their stories. My favorite Old Friend was War Emblem due to his Chicago connection. Green Mask is my favorite horse now. Who would I love to see retired to Old Friends? Battaash (champion sprinter in England).

- - *Steve Pallardy - Tour Guide*




How You Can Help Old Friends

On behalf of our more than 250 Old Friends retirees, thank you for considering a tax-deductible gift to help provide for the care of these deserving Thoroughbred athletes. By supporting our mission, you will help us expand our facility to benefit more horses, champions and unknowns alike. Whether you choose a general “where-most-needed” donation, or support a specific funding program, your donation will have an immediate impact on our horses and the quality of their lives. However you choose to help, thank you for caring about our horses!




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\$150

The Hoof Patrol
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Annual Membership Levels
Bronze (\$50) Silver (\$125) Gold (\$250)


Old girlFriends Society
Support the great mares of Old Friends.
Lifetime Membership

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



The back Page

w/Michael



Retirement is a curious word.

Visions of golf at Hilton Head, Caribbean cruises, lots of beer and sleeping late. Except for the beer, it sounds like hell on Earth. There's really not a word to describe mine.

I plan to follow John's lead into a new, creative, successful time in the history of Old Friends. I'll be here to help when necessary and stay out of the way when that's appropriate.

And I'm having a lot of fun. Silver Charm is still in the backyard, Channel Maker and Red Knight in the front, and I feed Mrs. Pasture's Cookies so often that the retirees now refer to me as Mr. Pasture. It's indescribably wonderful.

And Diane and I get to ride the golf cart late in the day all around the farm, marveling at how amazing these horses are. Heaven can't be any better than this.

2024 TOUR SCHEDULE RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR ALL TOURS



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