

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, April 24, 2014

RSVP Required: Members of the media interested in attending should contact Frank Drucker for credentials **no later than 4pm on Friday, April 25th**.

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Military Veterans Join Racing Veterans at Yonkers Raceway

Veterans Take the Reins at Special Tribute Event Hosted by Trainer Robbie Siegelman, HorseAbility, Standardbred Owners Association, and Yonkers Raceway

Yonkers, NY - For the past 115 years, the historic track at Yonkers Raceway has been known across the country as *the* place to find the best in harness racing. It is home to veterans of all kinds: trainers, drivers, horses and many more behind the scenes. But this Saturday, the veteran contingent will grow at Yonkers Raceway, as military veterans step onto the track and take the reins as part of a **HorseAbility for Heroes** program.

The special event is a culmination of efforts between **Robbie Siegelman**, a long-time New York-area horse trainer, **HorseAbility of Old Westbury, NY**, the **Standardbred Owners Association of NY (SOANY)** and **Yonkers Raceway**.

Siegelman is a volunteer at HorseAbility, a therapeutic center which offers a wide range of equine-related therapy programs to children and adults. As part of the **HorseAbility For Heroes** program, Siegelman teaches military veterans and their families to jog Standardbred horses. Last year, the Standardbred Owners Association of NY, the Yonkers' horsemen's organization, supported the program with the donation of a special jog cart that accommodates the disabled to allow disabled veterans to more easily participate in the program.

"I have always felt the importance of giving back to the community, and being able to do that through the sport that I love is a tremendous bonus," said **Siegelman**. *"Developing the therapeutic driving program with HorseAbility and working with the veterans has been such a personally rewarding experience. I am grateful to Yonkers Raceway and SOANY for making it possible to honor these men and women, and their families, who have sacrificed a great deal in service of our country."*

Veterans will demonstrate newly learned horsemanship skills by jogging horses for the first time on the racetrack as they lead the post parades for the first three races of the evening. Along with their family members, they will also present trophies to the winners of the evening's races.

In a special tribute to the veterans, members of the **Yonkers Police Department** will serve as the color guard for the National Anthem beginning at 7pm. Following the races, the veterans and their family members will enjoy a trackside dinner in the Empire Terrace Restaurant.

Post time is 7:10pm for the first race. The Saturday 12-race card features the \$567,000 final of the George Morton Levy Memorial Pacing Series and the \$371,400 final of the Blue Chip Matchmaker.

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