

# The Will To Succeed



*From the Executive Corner*

by DOUG BURGE

As illustrated on the cover of this August 2011 issue of *California Thoroughbred*, the state recently lost one of its true champions, Brown Bess. Bred and raced by former California Thoroughbred Breeders Association (CTBA) Director, Suzanne Pashayan, Brown Bess was the pride of Northern California and a true example that it is not necessarily the size of the horse, but the heart and determination.

After breaking her maiden at Santa Rosa, during its 1986 Sonoma County Fair meet, the under-sized mare went on to win 15 more races and over \$1.3 million overall. Like fine wine, she truly got better with age; winning the grade I Ramona Handicap and Yellow Ribbon Invitational Stakes in 1989, as a seven-year-old, while capturing the Eclipse Award as Champion Female Turf Horse that year. She also won the title of California Horse of the Year and Champion Older Female that same year. At that time, she was only the second California-bred to win an Eclipse Award.

As a broodmare, she only produced one winner before being retired. However, not completely taking to retired life, she remarkably became a foster mare to an orphaned foal and lived to be 29 years old.

Truly a champion, a tribute to her is featured on page 15.

On the legislative front, the CTBA has been diligently working with the rest of the industry to ensure that racing is a significant player with the state Internet Poker Bills. State Senators Rod Wright (D), Los Angeles, and Lou Correa (D),

Santa Ana, have introduced legislation SB 45 and SB 40, respectively, which will legalize internet gaming in the state. The horse racing industry is united in that we want parity with the tribal casinos and card clubs, and have repeatedly relayed this message to the bill authors, supporters and other legislators.

The industry has been requested to submit language for potential inclusion in the bill amendments. At a recent Senate Governmental Organization Committee informational hearing on the matter in Sacramento, it was encouraging to not only witness the unity of the racing community, but also the interest and support of the Committee members present. Racing currently has exclusivity as it pertains to internet wagering, and it is vital that our interests are considered in these bills.

The revenue potential for purses, incentives and track commissions through racing's participation in internet poker is very significant. Such an increase will allow California to successfully compete with other racing states that have boosted their purses and incentives through similar gaming subsidies.

All CTBA members and magazine subscribers are encouraged to contact their local legislators and relay the importance of racing's inclusion in the internet gaming legislation. The CTBA will keep our members posted through our publications and web site as to the status of these important legislative items. 🐾

**It Pays To Be Cal-Bred**  
**\$28 Million Breeding and Racing Program**

California Thoroughbred Breeders Association  
 201 Colorado Place • Arcadia, CA 91007 • 626-445-7800 • www.ctba.com

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