



From the *EXECUTIVE CORNER*



**DOUG BURGE**

CTBA PRESIDENT

## Deserving Honorees

The CTBA's Annual Awards Dinner and Hall of Fame inductions, held recently in Pasadena, honored both the California-bred champions of 2015 and all the individuals who have been instrumental in managing and producing horses in the state over the past several decades. In front of a crowd of roughly 175 industry participants, five-time stakes winner Gimme Da Lute was posthumously named California-bred Horse of the Year for 2015.

Although a Cal-bred did not win the Kentucky Derby two years in a row, last year was indeed another great year for California-breds on the race-track. In fact, Cal-breds nearly won 20 graded stakes across the country last year, with several in grade I company. Also, California Chrome, who was named champion older male and finished second in the Horse of the Year voting by the CTBA membership, ran a game second in the world's richest race, the \$10 million Dubai World Cup. He is currently training in Dubai as he targets the race again

this year and a hopeful visit to the winner's circle.

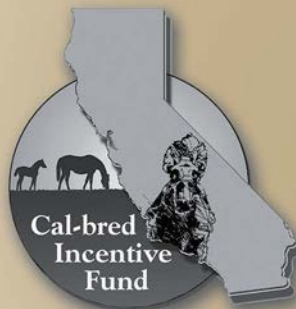
Several promising young stars were also honored at the event. They included Smokey Image, the undefeated champion 2-year-old male, and Pacific Heat, the multiple stakes-winning 2-year-old champion filly. Both have their sights on the top 3-year-old races this spring after gaining experience and education in restricted stakes. Smokey Image is scheduled to compete in Derby preps and hopefully the classics.

Besides the awards given to the divisional champions, leading sires, leading breeder, and California Trainer of the Year, one of the highlights of the dinner has always been the CTBA Hall of Fame inductions. Since the resurrection of the Hall of Fame in 2007, 35 individuals and horses have joined the roster.

This year the highlight was on Cal-bred million-dollar earners Fran's Valentine and Nostalgia's Star, as well as Ridgeley Farm owners/founders Jim & Pat Thompson and longtime Harris Farms farm manager Dave McGlothlin.

Pat Thompson and her late husband, Jim, have been a staple in the breeding industry in the state for more than 50 years and have bred and raised many top runners, including several millionaires. I have known Pat for more than 20 years through her involvement with CTBA and her support of our sales and program. She has always been a hard worker, full of ideas to better the sport and very deserving of this honor.

I am extremely pleased that Dave McGlothlin became the first farm manager to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. He has been the backbone of Harris Farms since the early 1980s and has been involved in the early development of not only many stakes winners but also two national Horses of the Year: Tiznow and California Chrome. One of the things I admire most about Dave is that he is always quick to point out that success is a team effort and that it takes the support of everyone to keep Harris Farms consistently among the list of leading breeders each year. Another deserving honor. **CTB**



# It Pays To Be Cal-Bred