

## From the EXECUTIVE CORNER



## DOUG BURGE

CTBA PRESIDENT

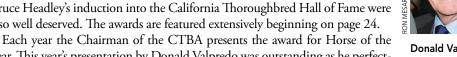
## Perseverance and Hard Work Yield Rewards for California Racing

he recently concluded Annual Awards Dinner and Hall of Fame inductions were definitely one for the ages. In front of a packed house at the The Westin hotel in Pasadena, each of the California-bred divisional winners was honored, with California Chrome, as expected, being the star of the show.

With many media as well as owners, breeders, and racetrack executives in attendance, the California-bred program was celebrated and honored for the accomplishments in 2014. What was

extremely gratifying was the acknowledgment by many award recipients that the availability and overall strength of the Cal-bred incentive and racing program were the deciding factors for their investment in California racing.

The individual awards to Art Sherman as California Trainer of the Year, Senator Andy Vidak with the inaugural Senator Kenneth L. Maddy Award, and Bruce Headley's induction into the California Thoroughbred Hall of Fame were also well deserved. The awards are featured extensively beginning on page 24.



**Donald Valpredo** 

Year. This year's presentation by Donald Valpredo was outstanding as he perfectly concluded a special event. For those not able to attend, I have included below his speech as part of this editorial. Congratulations again to all award recipients.

"I have all these notes and wonderful things that I will continue to say, but all of the awards recipients this evening have made mention of all of the things that have made the California Thoroughbred breeding industry come to the forefront once again.

"I can go on to say that what we're doing in California with incentive award programs, what we're doing to encourage the breeding and development of great equine athletes, goes to a trio, or more, of fine people all heavily involved. In partnerships with the owners (the TOC), the trainers (the CTT), and the racetracks, that have their own set of criteria for moving ahead, California is going to persevere and will continue to do great things.

"We're very fortunate in this year that we get to have before us an equine athlete of such magnificence as California Chrome. We have to go back and think about Mr. and Mrs. (Larry) Williams, who stand Lucky Pulpit in California because of the incentive awards. We have to go back and think of the people who conceived, foaled, and raised California Chrome at the Harris Ranch. Think of all the things a trainer has to do to get a horse to show this magnificence.



Eclipse Award winner California Chrome turned a bright spotlight on the Cal-bred program

Think about the grooms, the hotwalkers, the exercise riders, the feed, the bedding, the farriers, the veterinarians, the bookkeeping, planning for races, and trying to talk to racing secretaries. Think of all the things that a trainer has to do to get an animal to move on to this.

"Legislatively, California works very hard to find a place to keep our prominence in the industry through the efforts of our legislative leaders like Andy Vidak and other people, to the racetracks for their maintenance of safe and continually preserving good training grounds. You can't do it alone, and we're so blessed this year that an Eclipse Award goes to a California-bred, who shows that if you stick to it and have perseverance, you will eventually succeed.

"We commend and congratulate the Martins and the Coburns and their families, and Art Sherman and his crew for all the work that you guys do. I don't think people who aren't horseman realize the efforts that everybody puts in to making a champion. We congratulate you, Mr. and Mrs. (Perry) Martin, Mr. and Mrs. (Steve) Coburn, and we congratulate your wonderful staff. Thank you so very much for an Eclipse Award winner."

Donald Valpredo