

## Dogwood Stable owners receive horse racing honor

Friday night's ceremony celebrated the success of a Thoroughbred racing operation and the rewards that come with victory, but it was also an opportunity to recognize the people who have made a huge impact by influencing the lives of others.

Dogwood Stable's W. Cothran "Cot" and Anne Campbell were honored at the Aiken Thoroughbred Racing Hall of Fame and Museum for recording eight stakes victories at Keeneland, the Lexington, Ky.-based racetrack.

Dogwood Stable is the 17th owner to receive the prestigious Keeneland Gold Tray. The Aiken-based Thoroughbred racing stable secured the gold tray when Aikenite won the Grade II Commonwealth Stakes on April 16.

Mayor Fred Cavanaugh and S.C. Sen. Greg Ryberg, R-Aiken, recognized the Campbells by reading and presenting proclamations.

Dogwood Stable has not only enjoyed success in the Thoroughbred industry but has also generated a great deal of exposure for Aiken on a national and global scale, said Cavanaugh.

The Campbells' presence and involvement in the community has made Aiken a better place to live.

"In his career, Cot has not only proven to be a man of character but has been a role model for his work ethic, innovation and can-do attitude," said Cavanaugh. "He is a kind, sincere and thoughtful gentleman who makes a person feel good just being around him. I'm proud to call Cot a friend."

Dogwood Stable and the Campbells have enjoyed great success in the Thoroughbred industry, but they've also given back. Cot Campbell thanked those who have made that success possible while addressing the crowd of several hundred people.

A pioneer in creating the concept of Thoroughbred racehorse partnerships, Campbell will be taking a reduced role in the Aiken-based operation at the start of 2012 but intends to remain active during his semi-retirement, managing the stable's existing partnerships and attending the races and sales.

The saying that there's a great woman behind every great man couldn't ring more true when it comes to the Campbells, and Cot recognized his wife Anne for her part in making Dogwood Stable a success.

"I will pay homage to the greatest human being I've ever met, saw or heard about, and that is the woman that I have been married to for 53 years," he said. "I thank Anne Campbell. I couldn't have done it without her."

Dogwood Stable, its employees, horsemen and the horses who have been associated with the Thoroughbred racing operation's long-term commitment to excellence have made the organization prosperous. Among those Campbell thanked were Aikenite's groom, Elias Sanchez, and those associated with the stable for their part in making Dogwood Stable one of the most respected names in Thoroughbred racing.

"Racing has provided me with the greatest life a human being could ever have," said Campbell. "I have lived a life that has pushed the envelope, and I have enjoyed that."

Dogwood Stable has been based in Aiken for the past 25 years, and the Campbells are humbled by the overwhelming and heartwarming support they've received.

"I thank the horses," said Campbell. "I thank the good ones, the bad ones, and I sure thank the ones that tried hard."



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