



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARETHA FRANKLIN TO HEADLINE THOROUGHBRED OWNERS AND BREEDERS ASSOCIATION NATIONAL AWARDS DINNER

LEXINGTON, Ky. – The Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association (TOBA) announced today Aretha Franklin will headline the TOBA National Awards Dinner on Saturday, September 8, 2007 at John G. Sikura’s Hill ‘n’ Dale Farms.

Now in its 22nd year, the TOBA Awards honor the achievements of Thoroughbred owners in the four major North American racing regions and breeders in 26 states and Canada. Also honored at the dinner are the National Breeder of the Year, the National Owner of the Year, the National Small Breeder of the Year and the New Owner of the Year.

Aretha Franklin is an iconic American gospel, soul and R & B singer and was the first woman to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Franklin has won 16 Grammys and is commonly referred to as “The Queen of Soul”. Some of her most successful hit singles include “Chain of Fools”, “You Make Me Feel (Like a Natural Woman)”, “Think”, “Baby I Love You”, “The House That Jack Built” and “Respect”.

“Hill ‘n’ Dale is proud to host an evening that recognizes the accomplishments of breeders on a national level. We are equally thrilled that a true icon of music, Aretha Franklin, will perform at the event,” said John G. Sikura.

“We are honored to be associated with Hill ‘n’ Dale Farms and are pleased to welcome a legendary performer, Aretha Franklin, as we recognize outstanding participants in Thoroughbred racing and breeding,” said Dan Metzger president of TOBA.

Tickets for the TOBA Awards Dinner will go on sale in July.

Sponsors of the 2006 National Awards Dinner included Vinery, Youbet.com, Stonestreet Wines, Woodford Reserve, Kentucky Eagle Beer, Blood-Horse Publications, Dodge, UPS, Grey Goose and Daily Racing Form.

TOBA, based in Lexington, Ky., was formed in 1961 and is a national trade organization of leading Thoroughbred horse breeders and owners. TOBA's mission is to "*improve the economics, integrity and pleasure of the sport on behalf of Thoroughbred owners and breeders.*" Projects managed by TOBA include the American Graded Stakes Committee, The Racing Game, Sales Integrity Program and Claiming Crown. TOBA is the owner of Blood-Horse Publications and is also represented on the Board of Directors of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association as a founding member. More information is available at www.toba.org.

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