

In the 50 years I have known Catesby, I have known an honorable, distinguished and successful man. The riches he has amassed go far beyond material wealth. He enjoys the love and affection of his children and grandchildren, the respect of Thoroughbred breeders and owners, and the gratitude of charitable institutions he has served well. His kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity have been experienced by those who know him. To “succeed,” according to Webster, is “to turn out well.” Catesby has succeeded in a life well lived.—*Joan B. Gaines*

The University of Kentucky is delighted to honor the life, legacy and impact of Catesby Clay. Mr. Clay’s Runnymede Farm is a Kentucky icon, thanks to his fervent dedication to the farm’s timeless tradition of breeding excellence.

As important as his contributions have been to the Thoroughbred industry, Mr. Clay also must be recognized for his commitment to Kentucky education. Mr. Clay single-handedly led the charge to create UK’s Mining Engineering Foundation, donating \$500,000 to the creation of the foundation and encouraging other members of Kentucky’s energy industry to match his gift. Mr. Clay’s generosity not only formed our foundation, it has transformed the lives of countless young Kentuckians by providing mining engineering scholarships to our best and brightest. We are proud to recognize Mr. Clay for his contributions to the Commonwealth. We congratulate him for the distinct honor of being named the Thoroughbred Club of America’s Honor Guest.—*Mira Ball, Chair of the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees*
—*Lee T. Todd, Jr., University of Kentucky President*

Wow, what a bloke. Every now and again in life you come across a man who you recognize instantly as someone who has value in nearly every sentence that he speaks. Catesby imparts love from his heart to literally everyone he comes into contact with. You can feel the humility when you take the time to listen and watch him. From the moment I first spoke to this man, I loved him as my fraternal brother. Catesby reminds me of my own father, and although we are continents apart, I smile whenever I think of him. Of course, I laugh whenever we talk and I am certainly left a better man after our conversations.

Although Catesby once described me as a lovable truck driver, he meant it as a compliment rather than a slur. We share our Catholic faith, and between the two of us we have 17 children. We met when I was putting the prints and advertising fund together for Mel Gibson’s film *The Passion of the Christ*. Here was a man that God had blessed and mostly because he had simply corresponded with God’s will. We connected straightaway, not having anything to do with the fact that I had one more child than him. When I told him that he might lose his money in a speculative movie about Jesus in a foreign language, he did not hesitate. He wrote the check on the spot. I did tell him, however, that he might gain some brownie points with the Man upstairs when it came time for him to give an account of his stewardship. He did

not actually need that prompt. God was not to be outdone in His generosity back to Catesby, and he got his money back in 47 days.

Catesby Clay is a colossal man and deserves every accolade—quite properly referred to in Australia as “a bloody ripper bloke.” Personally, I am privileged to say Catesby is my great friend in Kentucky.

With my fraternal love and kindest regards to Catesby on this great occasion.—
Charles Morton, lawyer, film producer, pub owner, sheep shearer and truck driver, Wagga Wagga, New South Wales

Congratulations, Catesby, on this well-deserved honor you are receiving from the Thoroughbred Club. It was you at Runnymede Farm who encouraged and introduced the Noonans in the horse business, and we have enjoyed many good times in Lexington and Paris.

It would be difficult to find a mentor and partner who is also such a staunch and dedicated friend. We are proud to have had this relationship. We wish you, your family, and Runnymede many, many more years of success.—*Mary Lu Noonan*
—*Peter K. Noonan*

Our heartiest congratulations to the patriarch and master of Runnymede, whose lifelong commitment to the best interests of the Thoroughbred adds further laurels to Kentucky’s oldest continuous horse farm and luster to this prestigious award.—*James E. Bassett III, chairman emeritus, Keeneland*

Everybody knows Catesby is a terrific breeder, but he is also successful in the horse business.—*Marylou Whitney*

Catesby is a “one of a kind” character you might read about in Alice in Wonderland. As they say, after Catesby, they “broke the mold,” which may not have been a bad thing! As his nephew, I go all the way back to the late 1940s, as we would spend the summer at Runnymede with our grandmother, Agnes Camden, Catesby’s mother, and Catesby lived at Runnymede until he married in 1960. After going to work at Kentucky River Coal, I once commented to our treasurer how Catesby could never seem to come to a decision on many issues. His response was “Hell, you knew your grandmother, Jim. She made all his decisions for him!” At the same time Catesby was great fun and considerate of all friends and relatives, no matter what age. He had the ability to laugh at himself and knew when not to take life too seriously. This made him many friends.

In the horse business, Runnymede Farm has a great history, going back to Ezekiel Field Clay, Catesby's grandfather, and Catesby Woodford, who Catesby was named for. Clay and Woodford were prominent breeders with U.S. Racing Hall of Fame inductees Miss Woodford, Hanover, Ben Brush and Roamer—all bred at Runnymede.

With my limited knowledge of the horse business, and listening to Catesby over the years, my impression was Catesby had real insight and good judgment in breeding and bloodlines, as his own breeding record would substantiate. However, the lure of racing may have impacted his financial results with "negative dilution." It's a "business" I don't understand, but it's in Catesby's blood! My life has been made better having him for an Uncle, and more so as a friend!—*Jim Kenan*

Catesby Clay is a fine example of what a Kentucky hardboot really is—a man who can breed and raise a champion race horse, support an industry with all his available resources and raise a family to carry on the tradition he so well represents himself. Our association with him at both Jonabell Farm and Darley at Jonabell has been a pleasure in every sense of the word.—*James G. Bell, president of Darley America*

Catesby Clay served on the Churchill Downs board of directors from 1953 until his retirement in 1998. Unfortunately for me, I did not join the board until 1985, so my service to the board only had a few years of "overlap" with Catesby's many years of service.

What I do remember about Catesby's participation is that it was always in a "gentlemanly" way. Whether he agreed or disagreed rarely changed his demeanor. He could disagree with you and you would still have respect for him and his position. Over the years since Catesby's director status has been emeritus, he has voiced his thoughts on subjects to me privately, again in the same mannerly way as always, and his opinions, without exception, were carefully considered and articulated. I have always felt comfortable seeking his advice and do so when we see each other and have a chance to talk.

The only time I can remember ever disagreeing with Catesby on any subject of importance was when we were discussing the allocation of Derby tickets to the directors emeriti and he voiced the opinion that he should be allocated more than the allotted amount because he had more children. He made a very factual case for his position and one impossible to refute.—*Carl Pollard, chairman of Churchill Downs Inc. and owner of Hermitage Farm*

As one of his Thoroughbred partners for more than 20 years, I have had the good fortune of getting to know Catesby Clay up close. Throughout our association, Catesby has not only impressed me with his knowledge of all things Thoroughbred—knowledge he has so generously shared with me—but also with his unflagging commitment to high standards and quality, and with his unwavering sense of tradition. One hundred and forty two years old and still going strong in all its Bluegrass glory, Runnymede Farm is indeed a special place on this Earth—and judging by his loving stewardship of the farm, no one is more aware of this fact than Catesby himself.

A true Kentucky gentleman, Catesby has always been kind and hospitable to me, and in all the years we've been teaming up, we have never had a contentious moment between us. What's more, because his word is his bond, we have never even had a single piece of signed paper to spell out our partnership. I admire him for his deep devotion to his country, to his family and to his Catholic faith.

Proud to call him partner and friend, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Catesby and his family for this honor, which is so richly deserved.—*Peter Callahan, co-breeder of Japanese champion Agnes Digital, earner of more than \$8-million*

For Catesby Clay to be added to the list of Thoroughbred Club honorees is an extra compliment to everyone else who has been honored. Catesby is a true horseman, and a Kentucky gentleman. I immensely respect his dedication to his family's proud history and his ability to make Runnymede a success in the 21st Century, just as it has been since the 19th Century. My fondest congratulations to Catesby, Biz and their wonderful family.—*Robert E. Courtney Sr., the 2003 Thoroughbred Club honor guest and longtime operator of Crestfield Farm*

I have known and dealt with Catesby W. Clay for more than 50 years. He is extremely honest and would go out of his way to be helpful in every instance. We became friends from the beginning.

One of the first horses I bought from him was a stakes filly by Cyclotron named Cut and Comb. I bought her for a hairdresser in Washington, D.C. The next year I bought Terrible Tiger. He won 23 races from 63 starts, winning stakes in California, Chicago, New York, and up and down the East Coast. He broke four tracks records and retired sound. Like most Runnymede runners, he was very durable.

Catesby has been a great friend and, having met his wife, Biz, and their children, it was always one of my highlights to visit them or to look up Catesby when I went to the sales at Saratoga and Kentucky.—*William G. "Billy" Christmas*

Shadai Farm and the Yoshida family are pleased to extend our sincere congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Catesby Clay as the honoree of the Thoroughbred Club of America. Under Mr. Clay's leadership and vision, Runnymede Farm has trail-blazed an innovative and respected global presence in the Thoroughbred breeding/racing arena.

Mr. Clay and the Runnymede family have worked to forge a strong relationship and friendship with the Japanese Thoroughbred community. At the same time, they have nurtured a lasting legacy through quality horses like Royal Ski, the broodmare sire of the great racehorse and sire Agnes Tachyon, and the Japanese champion Agnes Digital.

We have been honored to be a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Clay at the Kentucky Derby and we had a wonderful time the next day at the Mr. Clay's Derby Alibi Party. We were pleased that Mr. Clay came to Japan and visited Shadai Stallion Station, and we hope to see him back in Japan some day soon.

While we cannot be in Lexington for this special evening, we wish Mr. Clay and Runnymede Farm many more years of continued success in the United States and internationally.—*Teruya Yoshida*

When I decided to start a consulting business, the first person to approach me for assistance with his breeding and racing program was Catesby Clay. I was flattered and pleased to be asked to assist one of the breeding industry's established successes. That was the beginning of 25 years of friendship, respect and whole lot of fun. One of Catesby's immediate needs was to hire a general manager; I knew just the man for the job, top horseman Martin O'Dowd. I suggested Martin to Catesby, and I am pleased that Runnymede and Martin have forged a formidable team, with mutual respect and appreciation.

One of the highlights of my racing year is the Runnymede trip to Louisville to attend the Derby Trainers Dinner. We meet in the parking lot in front of the Ramada on Paris Pike and the traveling celebration of the upcoming Derby begins—who says that the cocktail hour for the dinner starts at 6:00? This year after returning to Lexington, I was more concerned than usual about Catesby driving home at midnight from the Ramada, so I attempted to persuade him into having Brutus or Martin drive him home. Catesby, who has the Lord's oversight every time he gets behind the wheel, was emphatic that he was OK to drive home and would hear none of it. So, off he drove. At 12:45 A.M., after I was securely at home ready to go to sleep, my cell phone rings and it is Catesby, just making sure that I had made it home safely—a tinge of sarcasm in his voice!

The Thoroughbred Club should be applauded for selecting Catesby as this year's Honored Guest. In addition to running a successful coal business, Catesby has proudly

continued his family's long history of breeding top-class race horses. He remains deeply committed to the industry. —*Ric Waldman*

One of the most exciting moments that occurred in my life as Mayor of Lexington-Fayette County (1993-2003) was when Mr. Catesby Clay told me that Kentucky River Coal, of which he was the president, wanted to give 116 acres of valuable land to the government and to the community to use as a park. What an enormous gift! This acreage was a beautiful rolling space between Versailles Road and Parkers Mill Road and across from Calumet Farm. It had been the subject of zoning disputes, being in a very prized location, and the board of Kentucky River Coal, led by Mr. Clay, made the decision to give the property to the local government. The land was valued at \$3,491,347, by far the most precious property ever donated by a private corporation or citizen to the public.

A plan was drawn up by park planning architects, and various uses were planned for the area including soccer fields, running paths, playgrounds, parking and so on. Much to my chagrin, our administration was not allowed to implement these plans until the state highway department made road improvements to Parkers Mill, and subsequent administrations have not yet been able to find the funds. But, there is a gorgeous piece of land available for all the people of the community whenever the time is ripe to make it accessible as a park. We are forever grateful to Catesby Clay and to Kentucky River Coal Corporation for their generosity and vision.

Thank you, Catesby Clay. —*Pam Miller*

When the poet rhapsodized, "What is so rare as a Clay in June?" he must have been referring to Catesby. And why not?

Consider this: What other horseman was born to the game and yet succeeded entirely on his own? After all, Catesby's grandfather, Col. Ezekiel Clay, was the leading breeder in this country until he sold his broodmare band to John E. Madden (which enabled Mr. Madden to achieve that title). The Colonel had had an eye shot out at the battle of Chickamauga, encouraging his friends to note that he certainly had an eye for a horse.

This promising chain was temporarily broken by the early demise of Catesby's father, leaving his peerless mother to cope. (The beauty and charm of Agnes McEvoy Clay was legendary. Horsemen of the day admiringly recalled that she had no fewer than three famous fillies named for her).

Catesby's mother was highly sought after, and eventually married Senator Johnson Camden, whose interest in racing had prompted him to establish Hartland Stud in Woodford County (now Stonestreet and 'Old' Pin Oak).

Young Catesby was sent off to get a proper education at Georgetown University. He emerged with great exposure, a bright mind and a strong work ethic. These attributes worked in concert to preclude the horse business. As Miss Agnes had dispersed her husband's bloodstock, young Catesby chose the practical route and went to work for his stepfather's business, the Kentucky River Coal Corporation.

And yet... and yet blood will tell. The draw of the Thoroughbred nagged at him and gradually Catesby began buying a mare or two. Soon he was in the business on hallowed ground, the beautiful Runnymede.

With such friends as Jim Henderson and Abe Hewitt, Catesby had no need of computers (although he is said to keep a rabbit's foot in his pocket). These three wise men assembled a band of ostensibly modest mares that produced good horses regardless of the stallions to which they were bred. Catesby's cousin Bull Hancock saw to it that the inaccessible was accessible, and success followed success, from the start to the present.

But that's not all. Alarmed by the declining population of Bourbon County, civic-minded Catesby preformed a noble service to the community. Having won the hand of the fair Biz Gerwin, he resolutely set about to rectify the deplorable situation. The result: eight new Clays, all of whom are highly attractive and share their parents' love of racing and love for the land.

Other friends will no doubt tell many tales of Catesby, all of them true: His long service on the Kentucky State Racing Commission, on the board of Churchill Downs, of his business success, or his accomplishments on the dance floor.

But all of us, all of Catesby's friends, are united on one basic principle: Catesby Clay is the ideal selection for the Thoroughbred Club of America Testimonial Dinner Guest of Honor.—*Stanley D. Petter Jr.*

I wish to thank you for your support of the women in residence at the Center for Women in Racing in Paris, Kentucky. Your generous contributions have assisted many women throughout the year with basic needs to rebuild their lives while continuing to work and ride our Thoroughbreds at Bethlehem Farm.

I am certain your deep faith has inspired you to give to those poor in body, mind and spirit. Your generosity to assist women who have lost their hope, their homes and often their own horses, truly shows that you are passionate on setting a new precedent and awareness for the people of racing.

You and your family have gone above and beyond the gift of philanthropy. You are aware of the problems and issues many women in the Thoroughbred industry are facing today, and you are doing something about it. May God bless you and your family at this special time in your life and history with Thoroughbred racing.—*Sandra White, founder, Center for Women in Racing, Bethlehem Farm Inc.*