

New York State
Racing and Wagering Board

Phone: 518-395-5400
www.racing.state.ny.us



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CONTACT: Lee Park
lee.park@racing.state.ny.us

FORMER RWB EXECUTIVE AND RACING INDUSTRY MAINSTAY JOSEPH LYNCH TO BE MEMORIALIZED SATURDAY AT SARATOGA RACE COURSE

Saturday's 9th Race at Saratoga will be "The Joe Lynch Memorial"

New York State Racing and Wagering Board Chairman John D. Sabini today announced that the ninth race at Saratoga Race Course on Saturday, August 13 will be run in honor of Joseph Lynch, former Chief of Racing Operations and long-time New York racing and pari-mutuel industry professional.

J. Joseph Lynch, an active participant New York horse racing since 1969, passed away unexpectedly January 9 at his home in Ballston Spa at the age of 64. Saturday's Joe Lynch Memorial will appropriately feature New York-bred participants.

Mr. Lynch was born in Saratoga Springs in 1946 and graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey in 1969 with a B.A. in Business Administration. He began his career in the horse racing industry immediately thereafter as a publicist for Saratoga Harness Racing, Inc., a position he held until 1983. Mr. Lynch then worked as a ticket room supervisor at Oaklawn Park in Arkansas before coming back to New York to become program director at Saratoga Harness. Mr. Lynch also worked at the Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corporation as a specialist in pool manual transmissions to various race tracks.

In 1987, Mr. Lynch became an Operations Analyst for the Racing and Wagering Board, where he was responsible for ensuring compliance of Catskill OTB.

For a year-long stint from 1996 to 1997, Mr. Lynch was an announcer and personality for the Capital District Regional OTB Corporation's television and radio shows.

In 1997, Mr. Lynch rejoined the Racing and Wagering Board, serving as assistant to the Chief of Racing Operations before taking over as chief in 1999.

"Joe's knowledge, passion and spirit for racing left a lasting impression on all who knew him," Chairman Sabini said. "It's fitting that this race be run in his name to memorialize his status as a legend in New York's racing world. The sport of horse racing and the entire industry is better off for having Joe as a main player. I was honored to call him a friend in addition to a colleague and I am pleased to see him recognized in front of his family and thousands of race fans at Saratoga."

Tom Lynch, Joseph's brother and Records Manager for Warren County, said, "From day one horse racing was in Joe's blood, it was his passion! Having a race named after Joe is the perfect concluding chapter to a life that was totally dedicated to the horse racing industry. We miss him greatly but I'm sure he'll be with us in spirit as we celebrate his legacy on this special day."

George "Skip" Carlson, Vice President of Community Affairs at Saratoga Gaming and Raceway, said, "Joe Lynch was one most of the most knowledgeable racing administrators I had the pleasure of knowing, and I go back a long way with Joe as he was my first boss at Saratoga Raceway in 1977 when I began in the program department. Joe was a real fan of racing. Joe understood the racing industry from all aspects of the stakeholders; racetrack management, horsemen, owners, breeders, OTB's and horseplayers. But most of all, Joe was a gentlemen. He always took your call, thoroughly researched the issue and got back to you in a timely manner. Everyone in the New York State racing industry misses Joe."

New York State Thoroughbred Breeding & Development Fund Executive Director Tracy Egan said, "This is a fitting tribute to a great man who did great things for the industry. We are honored to be a part of this celebration of Joe's career and lifelong commitment to making horse racing a better sport in New York state."

Jim Gallagher, Executive Director of the New York Thoroughbred Horseman's Association, former Board official and Joe's close friend, said, "Joe Lynch was a friend, a colleague and a great state racing official. Joe was a Saratogian who loved horseracing and was versed in all facets of the game. It is only appropriate that a race in his honor and memory be named at Saratoga Race Course, the premier racing venue in the country, because he was a man of character and integrity, who regulated horse racing with aplomb."

Charles Hayward, President and CEO of The New York Racing Association, said, "Joe had a unique knowledge of horse racing and his death was a tremendous loss for New York racing. It is only fitting that we name a Saratoga race in his honor."

Michael J. Hoblock, Jr., former Chairman of the Racing and Wagering Board and current attorney-at-law said, "Joe Lynch was probably one of the most knowledgeable individuals in harness and thoroughbred racing. He was a tremendous asset to the Racing and Wagering Board, as well as all fans and partners throughout the state. There wasn't much that Joe didn't know, but he was able to work in such a warm and wonderful way that it never got to his head. I truly miss him, and he was a good friend."

Steven H. Richman, Esq., former Chief of Off-Track Betting Operations for the Board and current Counsel for the Board of Elections in the City of New York, said "It is a fitting tribute to have a race named for Joe Lynch. It was my pleasure to appoint him as an OTB Operations Analyst at the Racing Board and to work with him for many years. His knowledge of racing, his love for the sport and his concern for all the people involved in the industry made him a superb staff member for the Board, which recognized his talents and ability by promoting him to the Chief of Racing Operations. His passing was a great loss for this State and its horse racing, wagering and breeding communities, but this resident of Saratoga will not be forgotten by his

friends and now all can celebrate his life and achievements this Saturday with the Joseph Lynch Memorial Race at this State's most prominent track.”

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