

## **Tribute from Harness Tracks of America**

Stanley F. Bergstein, the only person twice inducted into the U.S. Harness Racing Hall of Fame, died of heart failure in the predawn hours of Wed., Nov. 2 at his home in Tucson, AZ. At his side was his son Al, Al's wife Megan and a hospice care specialist. Daughter Lisa and her husband Craig, along with grandson Michael Hentschel, were also in Tucson for the end of Stan's amazing life. His death comes just 17 months after his beloved wife, June, died just four days after the couple celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. The loss to the harness racing world is immense. Bergstein was incomparable. "He could have done anything," said friend Tom Aldrich in 1999. Instead, Bergstein chose to devote his boundless energies to harness racing — in just about every capacity imaginable. Aldrich, the president and chief operating officer of Northfield Park near Cleveland, OH, was a former executive assistant at the Harness Tracks of America (HTA), the organization Bergstein joined in 1961. "Imagine all the things he's done," Aldrich said of Bergstein. "He could have been an author. He could have been a humorist. He could have been a diplomat. He could have been a religious leader, a politician, a journalist, a fashion editor... He could have been a recruiter, a headhunter, a talent agent." As it was, Bergstein was a writer, innovator, broadcaster, race announcer, Hall of Famer, master of ceremonies, editor, race secretary, mentor, collector, spokesperson, horse owner, pedigree reader, consultant, auctioneer, ambassador, dean, humorist and sage. He was best known as the executive vice president of the HTA, a job he held for 50 years. In February of 2011, he was named executive emeritus.