

# Celebrating Accomplishments

## TOC OWNER AWARDS - SOUTH

Saturday, March 13 was truly a day for California racing to shine. Zenyatta made her much-anticipated return to the races in a smashing victory for Jerry and Ann Moss. Earlier in the day, winners' circle ceremonies were held to honor the 2009 achievements of California owners, including the Mosses, Zayat Stable, Deanne Warren, and John and Jerry Amerman.

The selection process for TOC's annual Owner Awards

began early in the year with a media selection committee comprised of representatives from northern and southern California, including track publicity, print media, television, and local handicappers. The winners were chosen by a combined vote of the media committee and members of the TOC board of directors.

The awards for Northern California owners will be held Saturday, Apr. 17 at Golden Gate Fields.

TOC director Pete Parrella presented the Rookie of the Year award to Deanne Warren. Warren campaigned Multitasker, Play Nine, Storm Machine and Ever So Humble in 2009 to four wins in 21 starts and just under \$100,000 in earnings. Deanne Warren was joined in the winners' circle ceremony by her husband, Craig, trainer Gary Sherlock and her many friends and family.



Jerry and Ann Moss accepted multiple 2009 Owner Awards, which were presented by TOC directors Billy Koch and Don Valpredo, along with TOC Chair Marsha Naify. The Mosses were named Owners of the Year after a tremendous year in which they campaigned Alpha Kitten, Madeo, Cocoa Belle, Tiago, Neko Bay, Theodora and, of course, Zenyatta.

Zenyatta was named Horse of the Year for 2009, during which she won four Grade 1 races and one Grade 2 while remaining undefeated. Among her victories was a breathtaking win the Breeders' Cup Classic as she became the first mare to win the race and the first horse of any gender to win two different Breeders' Cup races.

The 2009 Story of the Year was unanimously awarded to Zenyatta for her scintillating victory in the Breeders' Cup Classic.

Denise Mitchell accepted the award on behalf of Zayat Stables for Most Stakes Races Won and Most Purse Money Won. Zayat Stables won a remarkable 11 stakes races in 2009 and nearly \$2.5 million. Stakes winners included Santa Anita Derby winner Pioneer of the Nile and three-time Grade 1 winner Zenzational. Presenting the award was TOC Vice Chair, Southern California, Madeline Auerbach, accompanied by TOC Chief Operating Officer Guy Lamothe, artist Erica Nordean, whose works were given as the 2009 awards, TOC director Billy Koch, and TOC Project Coordinator Alison LaDuke.



John and Jerry Amerman received the 2009 Ed Friendly Industry Service Award for outstanding contributions and service in the Thoroughbred racing industry. The Amermans have been involved in California horseracing since 1995, when they started Amerman Racing LLC. A former CHRB commissioner and director of TOC, John serves on the board of directors for Winner's Foundation, Breeders' Cup, the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association, the American Graded Stakes Committee, Tranquility Farm, and the Jockey Club. Jerry serves on the advisory board for the Center for Equine Health at the University of California, Davis. The Amermans own Peacefield Farm in Temecula, Calif., which serves as a rehabilitation facility for both race and show horses. TOC Chair Marsha Naify made the award presentation.