

Legislative Profile: Senator Tom Harman

Senator Tom Harman (R-Huntington Beach) is the newly appointed Vice Chairman of the powerful Senate Governmental Organization (GO) Committee. This Committee is responsible for California policies related to the horse racing industry; it also oversees a wide variety of other issues, ranging from alcohol to disaster response.

With Los Alamitos Race Track located in his current Senate District, Senator Harman understands many of the challenges facing the industry. He is quick to point out the positive impact that California horse racing has on the state economy, fans, horsemen, track employees and local communities.

Sen. Harman has consistently been a strong voice for horse racing interests, including California Thoroughbred owners, throughout his legislative career. His involvement in industry issues dates back to his tenure in the State Assembly, where he served as a member of its GO Committee. His knowledge and expertise on racing issues also influenced his recent appointment to the Joint Fairs and Allocation Committee.

It is fortunate that owners have someone like Sen. Harman – a genuine fan – in a key position in the State Legislature. He has repeatedly demonstrated his support and passionate position that “a historic California tradition like thoroughbred racing not only be preserved, but also promoted to potential fans worldwide.”

As a member of both the GO and the Joint Fairs and Allocation Committees, Sen. Harman played an impor-

tant role in this year’s legislative decision to terminate the financial relationship between horse racing and the fairs, provide horse racing \$32 million in license fee relief and create an annual appropriation from the State’s General Fund to backfill support for local fair operations.

Over the years, Sen. Harman has carried several other pieces of legislation important to the industry. Most recently he authored Senate Bill 693, a measure that dealt with horse racing signals at satellite wagering facilities. SB 693 adjusted the amount of compensation for a satellite wagering facility to reflect on the number of signals a facility actually receives.

In addition to his efforts on behalf of horse racing, Sen. Harman’s legislative priorities include protecting the people and businesses of California. He has been a strong and vocal advocate for protecting the public’s safety, streamlining government, jump-starting our economy, lowering taxes, and defending our individual rights.

Prior to holding office, Sen. Harman practiced law for 31 years. He began his career

with the well-known Long Beach law firm of Lucas & Deukmejian, whose partners were future California Chief Justice Malcolm Lucas and future Governor George Deukmejian. He is a military veteran who served in the United States Army 4th Infantry Division.

Sen. Harman represents the 35th Senate District, which includes much of coastal Orange County, and lives with his wife Diane in Huntington Beach. He is currently the only Republican candidate running for California Attorney General in the 2010 elections.



Cal Cup Matron winner Lady Railrider, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Larry D. Williams.

TOC Hosts Legislators at Cal Cup

Each Fall TOC hosts California state and U.S. legislators at Oak Tree for the California Cup, and did so again on October 3, 2009. Joining TOC board and staff members for lunch in the FrontRunner restaurant were Sen. John Benoit, Assemblymember Bonnie Lowenthal, Sen. Jenny Oropeza, and Assemblymember Norma Torres.

TOC co-sponsored the \$100,000 California Cup Matron with California Thoroughbred Trainers, and dedicated all purse revenue generated on the day to offset Cal Cup purses.

Lady Railrider and jockey Frank Alvarado proved the best in the Matron, finishing a length and three-quarters in front of second-place Smooth Performer. Congratulations to owners Mr. and Mrs. Larry D. Williams and trainer Steven Specht.