



Remembering Mr. Phipps

When Ogden Mills (Dinny) Phipps was feted in 1990 as guest of honor at the Thoroughbred Club of America's Annual Testimonial Dinner, the scroll presented him declared that he "always has approached his involvement in the sport and industry of Thoroughbred racing as one requiring commitment to improvement and protection of its finest elements. He has answered when the call for action was sounded."

That commitment already had carried him through three decades of following his family's racing and leadership traditions, and the next quarter-century saw his role on the Turf not only continue, but grow. Indeed, in recent decades, that call for action often would be made by Mr. Phipps himself.



Central among his various leadership roles was chairmanship of The Jockey Club (1983-2015). In our specific world of research, Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation has benefited from his guidance and personal generosity. Mr. Phipps was instrumental in the merger of The Jockey Club's research foundation with the original Grayson Foundation in 1989. That merger combined the strengths of the two organizations — Grayson's experience with the research community and The Jockey Club research organization's greater financial standing.

In our personal experience, Mr. Phipps as a board member was unwavering in support of Grayson chairmen John Hettinger and Dell Hancock, and recent years have seen the Foundation able to provide more than \$1 million annually for veterinary research projects. The impetus from Mr. Phipps, and other board members, springs from a deep respect for the horse, that noble partner in the ambitions and joys of sportsmen and sportswomen who breed and own them. In an interview Mr. Phipps once was discussing his grandmother, Wheatley Stable founder Mrs. Henry Carnegie Phipps, and he harked back to her attitude: "It goes back to her loving her horses." Mr. Phipps' father had understood that and passed along similar dedication through his own example.

Mr. Phipps was always respectful of the expert researchers and veterinarians on our Research Advisory Committee, but he was not wont to rubber stamp all its recommendations. He had questions at the ready when the board met to consider the recommended projects, indicating that even in this specialized area of involvement he was serious about quality and efficiency.

Great individuals often are remembered with the observation, "We don't have people like that anymore." Mr. Phipps is one who will always justify the response, "Well, we *never* had *many* like that."

---Edward L. Bowen
President
Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation