Richard Stillings to be enshrined as the newest member of the Ohio Hall of Fame

Richard "Dick" Stillings, who has driven 5,751 career winners with over $41.7 million in purse earnings, is the newest member of the Ohio Harness Racing Hall of Fame. He was elected by a vote of the Ohio chapter of the U.S. Harness Writers Association. Stillings was inducted into the Harness Racing Living Hall of Fame in 2013.

Stillings, a native of Mount Vernon, Ohio, drove or trained some of the best Grand Circuit horses in the 1980's -- Barberry Spur (p.3, T1:50.2 - $1,634,017), Jaguar Spur (p,4, T1:49.2 - $1,806,473) Kentucky Spur (p,3, 1:52 - $1,341,340), Pegasus Spur (1:54 - $1,296,683), Esquir Spur (1:56f - $336,250) and Gunslinger Spur (1:58f - $317,562).

Stillings began his career as a groom for Hall of Fame trainer Dick Buxton. After a three year stint in the U. S. Army, he took a jobs with Jimmy Cruise, Sr. and Howard Beissinger.

In 1968, Stillings moved to The Meadows in western Pennsylvania and soon established himself as a top trainer-driver. Stillings and his brother Charles "Buddy" soon joined up with owner Roy Davis and formed a tremendous partnership sending out a string of successful horses, all with the "Spur" surname to honor the Tottenham Hotspur soccer club.

Team "Spur" teamed up to win back-to-back Little Brown Jug titles in 1986 and 1987 with Barberry Spur and Jaguar Spur. They captured a pair of Breeders Crown finals (Esquire Spur 3CT 1989 and Kentucky Spur 2CP in 1988).

Stillings, 69, remains quite an active trainer/driver. In 2013, Stilling sat behind 1,215 starters and collected 108 wins.

Stillings will be honored at the Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association banquet in Columbus on Sunday, January 26.