



King Ralph

A DESERVING TRIBUTE!

(written by Orianna Scheck)

Ralph Klein, pictured here standing beside the statue that was dedicated to him back in 2006.

The statue reads:

Playful and Rebellious

These two colts are an expression of the vitality of Alberta horse racing and the promise it holds.

Horse racing owes its gratitude to those who have led its renewal. Not by being moderate, staid, and cautious, but in a style characterized by a Promethean spirit, mindful of the past, and caring for the future.

This statue is dedicated by the Alberta Horse Racing and Breeding Industry to the Honorable Ralph Klein, in appreciation of his efforts and contributions towards industry revitalization.

This day, Saturday, September 23rd, 2006

Ralph Klein - one of Alberta's finest Premiers!

Ralph was elected to his first term as Mayor of Calgary in October of 1980. In March of 1989, he moved into Provincial Politics and was elected as the Progressive Conservative MLA for Calgary Elbow and was named Environment Minister a short time later.

In 1992, Ralph was elected by his party to replace retiring Premier Don Getty and was sworn in as Premier on December 14th of that year. He was once again elected to govern Alberta in the next election in June 1993 which was the first of many elections that he won. After fourteen years as premier, he retired on December 2, 2006. Sadly on Friday, March 29, 2013 we lost Ralph to illness.

Ralph was a long-time proponent of Harness Racing. Ralph attended the races frequently at Northlands Park and enjoyed talking with people that were knowledgeable with Standardbreds. Ralph is remembered for fondly loving our sport and often took the harness seat to drive in the annual "Premier's Challenge for Charity". He reflected his driving experiences as quite a rush. He was still an owner in the Don Monkman Stable showing his continued support for an industry he loved.

Ralph will always be remembered and honored in our industry with the Ralph Klein Breeders Stakes for 3yr-old Fillies which will be held on July 13 (eliminations) and July 20th (finals) at Alberta Downs.



Please join us Saturday, July 20th to watch some great Fillies line up behind the gate for the \$50,000 Ralph Klein Breeders stake final in memory of KING RALPH! Josh Groberman, a close and personal friend of the Klein's will be on hand to MC the day. The day will be filled with promotional events where the winners of each race will receive a sponsored retro blanket. There will be gifts galore and prizes given out on some fun trivia for "all ages". The Ice Cream Truck will be onsite selling \$2.00 ice cream treats and food specials will be offered. One lucky bettor will have a chance to win the draw for a IGIO Gym bag filled with tons of prizes sponsored by ASHA, Horse Racing Alberta and Alberta Downs.