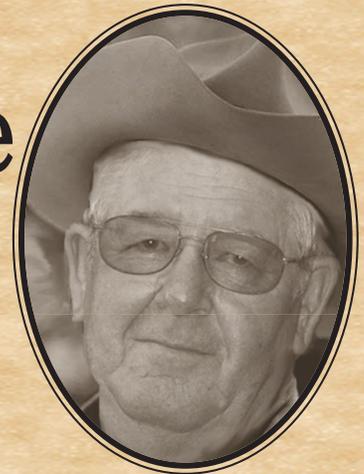


YOU ARE
WANTED

By the
GRAYSON-JOCKEY CLUB RESEARCH FOUNDATION

To Celebrate

Dr. Larry Bramlage
&
Dr. A. Gary Lavin



For Their
SERVICE AND DEDICATION
TO THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF HORSES

Friday, October 16, 2009

KEENELAND ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

Lexington, Kentucky

Cocktails 6:30; Dinner 7:30
Casual Attire

Dancing to the music of
ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL



Dr. A. Gary Lavin, VMD



Born on November 6, 1937, in New Orleans, Dr. A. Gary Lavin grew up in the world of the race horse. His father, Allan (Doc) Lavin, was a respected racing secretary at Churchill Downs, Oaklawn Park, Delaware Park. Young Gary took on some non-glamorous jobs in a generally glamorous business, sweeping roofs, raising flags and even manning the stretcher kept ready for steeplechase jockeys. His career became more serious when he attended veterinary school at the University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated in 1962. Dr. Lavin is quick to point out that the initials behind his name are different, but accurate. Most schools confer a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree, whereas Pennsylvania styles the distinction as Veterinary Medical Doctor.

Dr. Lavin dove into a busy lifestyle as a race track practitioner at Louisville tracks while also working at Warner L. Jones Jr.'s Hermitage Farm outside the city and working in visits to clients' farms in Bowling Green and in Indiana. Later, long-term relationships were developed with such clients as John Ed Anthony and Peter Willmott. Star runners Dr. Lavin has raised and/or cared for include Preakness winner Pine Bluff plus Demons Begone, Cox's Ridge, and Eddington. His early schedule was good preparation to handle the myriad aspects of horsemanship he and his family pursue today as owners of Longfield Farm. The Lavins are involved in all aspects and both Gary and his wife, Betsy, have accepted demanding roles of leadership for the good of the industry.

Mrs. Lavin is in her second term as a member of the Kentucky State Racing Commission, while Dr. Lavin has served as president of the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association and the American Association of Equine Practitioners. He has also been a steward of The Jockey Club, a trustee of the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association, director of the Breeders' Cup, and is currently a director of Keeneland Association and vice chairman of Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation. One son, Allan, heads up Lavin Bloodstock and the other son, Kevin, runs a thriving equine insurance company. Longfield breeds for the yearling market, which connects to a rather acute portion of Dr. Lavin's present endeavors. He is a part of the Keeneland inspection team which logs thousands of miles annually evaluating prospective sale yearlings.

All this activity does not overshadow the long years Dr. Lavin worked as a practitioner and surgeon, years in part responsible for his many honors within

his profession. He received his alma mater's Bellwether Medal for Distinguished Leadership, is a Distinguished Life Member of the AAEP, and recipient of the Distinguished Practitioner Award of the Kentucky Association of Equine Practitioners.

There is even an honor named for him: The Lavin Cup for Equine Welfare, presented since 1996 by the American Association of Equine Practitioners.

A Brief Q&A, The Professional and the Personal

What do you regard as the most important contribution Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation makes to the horse industry? The formation of the GJCRF Research Advisory Committee, which, with my huge persuasive talents, we convinced Larry Bramlage to chair. He then set a process together that has become the gold standard for grant reviews and funding. Much to my everlasting relief and gratitude.

What is one of the professional achievements that gave you the most satisfaction? Serving as president of the AAEP, KTA, KTOB, and my election to The Jockey Club.

Please give us a favored memory involving each of your children. Allan's winning the Headmaster's Award upon graduating from Brooks School. Kevin's All-American career in basketball at Centre College.

What was your favorite vacation? A barge trip through the south of France, followed by a week in Normandy.

Do you have an all-time favorite horse (for any reason)? Prairie Bayou. I truly thought he could be the next Kelso or Forego. He's buried at Longfield.

The AAEP thanks distinguished members
DR. GARY LAVIN AND DR. LARRY BRAMLAGE
for their outstanding commitment to
horse health and welfare.

American Association of Equine Practitioners



Guest Testimonials

One of the highlights for me working at Keeneland is meeting extraordinary people. One of them is Dr. A. G. Lavin. To work and spend time with “Docky” is a great honor and privilege as it allows me to mine his extraordinary knowledge. He is generous in sharing that vast knowledge, and it is not just on veterinary medicine or horse conformation, but on a wide and varied list that includes: Horse racing---he can name more Kentucky Derby winners than anyone I know; Wine--we have been known to try some together; Politics---we may not be always on the same side; every kind of Sports; Art; Travel, and his favorite topic, American history, especially the Civil War era, to name a few.

Each year when we do our East Coast yearling inspections for the September Sale, we spend 16 hours a day together for six straight days driving from Richmond, Va., to Saratoga Springs, NY. Now you know he is a saint. It is an experience for both of us, but for me it is a great experience.

Dr. Lavin gives his time willingly to many causes within the Thoroughbred and Veterinary industries but especially the Grayson-Jockey Club Foundation and it is proper to honor him this evening for all that he does and continues to do. Thank you, Docky and many congratulations.

*Geoffrey Russell,
Keeneland Association*

Gary has been a tremendous contributor to the operations of Willmott Stables. His great knowledge of equine medicine and the industry is of course helpful. More importantly, however, he is a man of solid character. He is trustworthy and honest and an interesting communicator. These great characteristics are supplemented by a wonderful sense of humor. He is an inspiration to our whole team, especially me.

Peter S. Willmott, Willmott Stables

Guest Testimonials

As difficult as it is, I would like to step aside from my friendship with these two men and at least attempt to be objective. Everyone knows them as great people and tireless workers; that is only part of the story here.

Most of us see through Dr. Lavin anytime he tries to portray himself as some sort of “aw shucks” bumpkin who has spent too much time in the Arkansas hills. And Dr. Bramlage trying to play the “I’m only a simple Kansas farm boy” role is equally amusing. In fact, however, those very roots contribute positively to their humility and work ethic, while they have become so very much more in their careers and lives.

My take on both of them is that they are innovators who are way ahead of their time. Although conservative in nature, neither is afraid to take risks. As veterinarians, this is reflected in their practice of medicine and surgery, all the way back to Dr. Lavin’s successful repair of Flip Sal and Dr. Bramlage’s innumerable successful cases, perhaps most notably Personal Ensign..

The willingness to guide change was also apparent through AAEP. Although such changes were many, I will mention just a couple. Prior to Dr. Lavin’s tenure as program chair, the AAEP Proceedings was delivered months after the meeting. Dr. Lavin reworked the abstract submission process so that it was delivered at the annual convention---to the amazement and delight of all in attendance.

Dr. Bramlage is known by the industry for his critical role in the On Call program, but his contributions do not stop there. It was with his encouragement and guidance that the AAEP joined with the British Equine Veterinary Association to provide its members with their widely acclaimed publication, called *Equine Veterinary Education* (EVE).

These two men brought their skills and willingness to innovate and applied them fully to the Grayson-Jockey Club’s project selection process. Those in the industry who are involved in this sort of endeavor (including yours truly, on behalf of AQHA) often ask: “How does Grayson-Jockey Club do it?” as it is such a benchmark of excellence.

Gary Carpenter
Former Executive Director, AAEP

Guest Testimonials

Being a native of Hot Springs, it was only natural for Gary to work the Oaklawn backside for many years. Those familiar with Doc know two things for sure. First, he's an excellent trainer of trainers. He nurtured a couple into the Hall of Fame. But he is also fond of a good bottle of red wine.

The Lavin/Loblolly Stable relationship began in the mid 70's, and carried us through the years of Cox's Ridge, Temperence Hill, Vanlandingham, Demons Begone, Pine Bluff, Prairie Bayou, and scores more; 3 champions, 17 Grade I wins, and a world of fun. But the secret to the Loblolly success began not on the track but after hours in a condo on Lake Hamilton.

I stopped one day at a shotgun liquor store to order some French wine (before red wine was in such favor). My inquiry resulted in a report that all they had in stock in Little Rock was a wine called Petrus and they had a number of cases that they would discount heavily in order to move (\$12). So, I bought the whole lot, about 8 -10 cases as I recall. Over the next few years during the winter months leading up to Oaklawn Gary, Joe Cantey, Shug and I would sit around the dinner table knocking back bottles of vintage Petrus. We could have bought a share in Danzig for what that wine was worth at today's prices. After that, it was easy. Seemed the more Petrus we drank the faster the horses ran.

John E. Anthony

Doc Lavin is more than a veterinarian. He is a humanitarian. Thousands of times horsemen at Oaklawn, Churchill Downs, and Keeneland have heard that gravelly voice in the darkness of morning asking, "You all right?" And he doesn't just mean the horses. He means the people, too. He has great rapport with all the people on the backstretch, and he has helped many young trainers.

You never hear anyone ask if he has a minute for them that he doesn't say yes, and it usually turns out to be much more than a minute. He has an enthusiasm and passion that give you comfort that he's taking care of your horse. And he is a horse owner himself, which gives him that extra insight into what it takes to get a horse to the races the proper way. Doc Lavin, in the mold of Drs. Jack Robbins and Art Davidson—what a racetrack veterinarian ought to be.

W. Rogers Beasley



CONGRATULATIONS GRAND DOC!

**We love you so so much
and are so proud of all you
have accomplished.**



*much love,
Betsy, Allan, Susan, Kevin, Amy,
Catherine, Eleanor, Alexandra,
Elizabeth, Lulu, and Hattie*