

AmWest CEO Presents National Breeder Award

Nelson Clemmens, founder and chief executive officer of AmWest Entertainment, took great pleasure in the chance to present the 2009 small breeder of the year award to Barbara Card during the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders annual awards dinner.

A devoted owner and breeder himself, Clemmens and everyone else in the audience at Keeneland on September 10 was touched by Mrs. Card's emotion in accepting the award. She and her husband, Keith, own Hi Card Ranch in Murrieta, California, and race California Flag, winner of the 2009 Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint.



“This is probably our proudest moment,” Mrs. Card said after Clemmens gave her the trophy. “I wish my husband could be here with me.”

Keith Card's health prevents him from traveling but not from being inspired by the exploits of California Flag, a handsome gray gelding whose speed has earned more than \$1 million and who set a course record at Santa Anita Park.

California Flag has carried the Cards' silks around the world, finishing just 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ lengths behind winner Sacred Kingdom while fifth in the 2009 Hong Kong Sprint (G1) and third by a length to Joy And Fun in the \$1 million Al Quoz Sprint (G3) on the Dubai World Cup (G1) program.

The TOBA awards dinner was sponsored by AmWest as part of its commitment to the Thoroughbred industry.

On a glittering night, other major award winners were Jerry and Ann Moss, the owners of undefeated champion Zenyatta, as the top American owners of 2009, and Edward Evans as the national breeder of the year.

"We have had an amazing life in racing," Jerry Moss said in accepting the award.

"Like most people in this business, we're optimists," said Chris Baker, manager of Evans' Spring Hill Farm in Virginia. "We're enjoying where we are right now," he added, referring to stars such as multiple Grade 1 winner Quality Road that were bred by Evans, "but we continue to believe our best days are ahead."

Other honorees included the Dubai-based Godolphin Stable, Eastern region owner of the year; George Strawbridge's Augustin Stable, Midwestern region owner of the year, and Ken and Sarah Ramsey, Southern region owner of the year.