

RTCA WINS RCI'S WILLIAM H. MAY AWARD

The Race Track Chaplaincy of America was presented with the prestigious William H. May Award by the Association of Racing Commissioners International (RCI) during their awards luncheon in New Orleans Louisiana on Friday, April 2. Presented during RCI's annual convention, the award is given annually for outstanding achievement and meritorious service to the horse racing industry.

"Based on the RTCA's long history, ministry and dedication to the people in horse racing, I can think of no more deserving organization to win this award," said RCI's Executive Director, Lonny Powell. "With all they've done to help the workers at so many racetracks and now the horse farms as well, it's easy to see that they have consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty in the best interests of the racing industry."

Past winners of the William H. May Award, named for the past president of the National Association of State Racing Commissioners, include the Jockey Club, the American Quarter Horse Association, the Association of Equine Practitioners, the Daily Racing Form, James "Ted" Bassett and the late Bob Strub.

The RTCA, formed in 1971, sanctions and oversees 48 track chaplains who serve at 80 racetracks and horse breeding centers. Last year it implemented ministries to racing farm workers in the Ocala, Florida and Lexington, Kentucky areas. Last month it made its first official expansion to tracks outside the country when it received funding from the Ontario Canada Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association to implement an outreach ministry to the track workers at Woodbine race track.

"I consider it a privilege to accept this wonderful award in behalf of each of our chaplains across America," said RTCA Executive Director, Dr. Enrique Torres. "But to us it represents more than achievement. It represents a challenge to build on our thirty-three year history and to provide with excellence more and better services and expand those services to more racetracks and breeding centers."