



Earl Owings Obituary

And They're Off.." - A Life Well Raced

In the final race of his life, Earl Davis "Buckskin" Owings took to the track one last time surrounded by love, faith, and peace. After a courageous battle with cancer, he crossed the finish line on Friday, October 17, 2025 guided by the same strength and determination that carried him through every mile of his journey.

Born on January 6, 1953, in McArthur to the late George and Joan (Castor) Owings. On July 30, 1975 he married the former Cindy A DuBois who survives. "Buck or Buckskin" as many knew him was a true horseman — a trainer, mentor, and friend to many in the harness racing community.

Also surviving are his children, Christopher M. (Trina) Owings, Bonnie (Jamie) Barker, both of Chillicothe; grandchildren, Alyssa (J.J.) McKenzie, Avery Barker, Cole Barker; great grandchildren, Oliver and Violet McKenzie; sisters, Ruthann Thacker, of McArthur, Bonnie Helman, of Jackson, Georgeann Clark, of McArthur and Maggie Sowers, of McArthur; a brother, Rick Owings, of McArthur; brother-in-law, Doug (Clarice) DuBois, of Chillicothe, and numerous nieces and nephews. Buck was predeceased by brothers and sisters-in-law, Bill and Esther Owings, Butch and Kandy Owings; brothers-in-law, Dick Helman, Dave Sowers and Alvin Thacker; sister-in-law, Kathy Owings and nephews Ricky and Bryan Owings.

From early mornings in the barn to late nights at the track, he dedicated his life to the sport he loved. Always steady on the reins and calm under pressure, he had a gift for seeing potential where others saw only pasture.

As the gates opened on life, he quickly took the lead - known for his work ethic, integrity, and big heart. He was the kind of man who'd lend a hand without being asked, share a story with his quick wit that made you laugh, and remind you that hard work could take you far.

In the final stretch, surrounded by family "Buck" raced home with grace and courage. Though he's no longer in the paddock, his legacy trots on in every horse he trained, every person he encouraged, and every heart he touched.

In his final weeks, he made it known that he had accepted Jesus as his personal savior and was at peace knowing where he would spend eternity. It was also the help of a horse that led him to salvation through the words written in a devotional book "100 Devotions From The Horse Farm."

At the wire, he is greeted by loved ones who've gone before him, and cheered on by all of us who were lucky enough to know him.

The race may be over, but the memory of this remarkable horseman will forever hold the winner's circle in our hearts.

Post time for his Celebration of Life will be 11 a.m. Wednesday, October 22, 2025 in the WARE FUNERAL HOME with Pastor Dave Barth officiating. Burial will follow in Little Mound Cemetery, friends and family are invited to gather and share stories from the winner's circle from 5-7 p.m. on Tuesday.