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## ***JOCKEYS ACROSS AMERICA ON JULY 30 TO PAY TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL DISABILITY INDEPENDENCE DAY AND FUNDRAISE FOR PERMANENTLY DISABLED JOCKEYS FUND***

**ELMHURST, Ill. (July 18, 2022)** — The Jockeys' Guild, Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund (PDJF) and National Thoroughbred Racing Association (NTRA), in conjunction with racetracks across the United States, today announced that riders competing on Saturday, July 30 (or another mutually agreed upon date that week at racetracks not racing that day) will pay tribute to National Disability Independence Day and to raise awareness and funds for the PDJF. Last year's event raised more than \$50,000 at racetracks across the country.

Jockeys at more than 20 racetracks are expected to participate in various activities to support the PDJF while also saluting National Disability Independence Day, which marks the 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Passed by Congress in 1990 and signed into law by President George H.W. Bush, the ADA banned discrimination based on disability in all parts of public life while improving the quality of life immeasurably for millions of people with disabilities.

Most racetracks will host activities on Saturday, July 30 although some racetracks that do not race on that day will be participating on another date during the week. Fans should check with their local racetrack for exact dates and events. Throughout the day, fans and industry participants will be encouraged to contribute to the PDJF at [PDJF.org](http://PDJF.org). The PDJF is a 501(c)(3) public charity that provides financial assistance to approximately 60 former jockeys who have suffered catastrophic on-track injuries.

"The PDJF welcomes teaming up with the Jockeys' Guild and NTRA to honor the passage of this very important piece of legislation that has changed the lives for all Americans living with a disability," said Nancy LaSala, Board President of the Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund. "The lives of PDJF recipients are improved as a result and for this we are very grateful."

Racetracks along with their jockey colony currently set to participate in the promotion include: Arizona Downs; Colonial Downs; Del Mar Thoroughbred Club; Delta Downs, Indiana Grand Racing and Casino, Monmouth Park, Prairie Meadows, and Saratoga Race Course.

"We thank the many jockeys from around the country for supporting this effort to heighten awareness of the Americans with Disabilities Act and assist in raising funds for the PDJF," said Terry Meyocks, President and Chief Executive Officer of The Jockeys' Guild and a member of the Board of Directors of the PDJF. "We also are immensely grateful to everyone who contributes financially to the PDJF."

### **About the Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund**

The Permanently Disabled Jockeys' Fund (PDJF) is a 501(c)(3) charity that currently provides financial assistance to approximately 60 former jockeys who have suffered catastrophic on-track injuries. Founded in 2006 by leaders in the Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse industries, the PDJF has disbursed over \$12 million to permanently disabled jockeys, most of whom have sustained paralysis or traumatic brain injuries. For more information and to donate, please visit [www.pdjf.org](http://www.pdjf.org).

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