

Third Printing Version: March 2017

I didn't think I would get a chance to publish a 2017 revision of this book. But when Jack tells you he's out of books and wants to print more – you print more. We've sold nearly all 7,000 books since the original print run.

Since the first run of books rolled out of the bindery in April, 2013, we have conducted book signings at over 25 racetracks across the nation, and all but a few racetrack management and staff members did an exemplary job in promoting and orchestrating the events. Researching and writing the book was one odyssey, the marketing of it has been another. I knew the book signing events would be special and they did not disappoint. If I had more time and less sense, I would write a complete new segment for this third printing. It would be dedicated to expressing the joy that emanated from the precious hours spent with Jack and his followers at each book signing. At many events (and always in Nebraska), a line formed before the book signing began and we always stayed longer than advertised. Without fail, fans, old friends and former employees of Jack (and even employees of his father Marion) would approach the book signing table to tell *their* Van Berg story. The transaction for a book was \$20, but the exchange with Jack was priceless.

Countless bystanders became part of the production of helping us lug books, personally assisting Jack at the track, or by getting him to and from the airport. Danny Arrigo was a prince at all of our Chicagoland signings and he even drove to Detroit to help us at Hazel Park. Unfortunately, Jack was in extreme back pain or suffering health issues during many of the book signings, otherwise the experience may have been more joyful for all. Saratoga was the worst in that regard; thank you Chris McCarron and Steve Byk for easing the pain. But it wasn't all woe and worry. There were no worries after the Prairie Meadows event when Jack and Don Von Hemel and Randy Curran, et al., never said no to another round of drinks; woe arrived the next morning. My wife Kay was also a dutiful dream. Kay still beams about how congenial and classy Arlington Park Chariman Richard Duchossois (age 93 at the time) was by inviting us into his back office to reminisce with Jack. She and I were book-ended by a pair of legends. Each inch of the journey has been work for me, but I have miles of satisfaction for what the book has accomplished.

My goal in writing this book was to send up a flare of awareness about Jack Van Berg to the modern-day horse racing enthusiast and get JVB back into the winners circle. Jerry Caroom was the first to throw Jack a lifeline. As an owner, he heartily embraced Jack as his trainer and provided Jack fresh horses to display his wares. And just as importantly, the two became fast friends. Jack's friendship with fellow trainers Danele Durham and Joe Petalino is not to go untold. Jack continually cracks the whip over that team, but he wouldn't move far without them. Of course Jack's assistant trainer Sammy Almarez remains a primary pillar to the JVB operation. The decades of confidence the two have shown in each other is rare and remarkable. Sammy has cared for Jack much the way Jack cared for his aging father Marion. The reliance Jack and his owners have in Sammy has been, and will continue to be, a savior for the purple and gold.

Jack also has immense gratitude for his faithful owners: Kay Stillman, Mark DeDomenico, Mike Puhich, Mike Waters and Dream Walkin Farms (Toby Keith). He thanks his children who have rallied for him and his assistant trainers who have come back to assist him.

In reality, most everyone who comes in contact with Jack, becomes part of what I call the JVB VFD; his call for help may come at any time, you will jump when it does – and you are a volunteer. Jack also has a brigade of 5,000 Facebook friends who provide cheer and support – and he does his best to see the posts. Once again, Jack wants me to express a big thank you to EVERYONE who has helped him in any way along the way. I concur. THANK YOU!

And thank you for buying this book. See and hear more at: JackFromGritToGlory.com and buy the book on Amazon.com.

Jack would like to dedicate this third printing to his dear Liza G. Fly, who first became a part of his life when she galloped horses for him in California. She was a major motivator of Jack during some thin years and she assured him that with his merits as a horseman, he will train another Kentucky Derby winner. When the two left California and cozily settled in together in Hot Springs, Arkansas, the absolute dedication Liza showed Jack was completely returned by him as she fought bravely through her chemotherapy treatments. Liza passed away in July, 2016

Liza was a brilliant songwriter and she sang like an angel. She famously wrote and sang the Zenyatta song and other songs of: horse racing, pain, joy and life. Jack tirelessly wanted the world to see what a star Liza was; Liza saw nothing but a star in Jack. The twinkle of Liza touched anyone she met.