

NEWS RELEASE

Media Relations Office

Tom Luicci
Media Manager



tluicci@monmouthpark.com • Phone: 732.571.5540 • Fax: 732.571.5526 • monmouthpark.com

LONG-TIME MONMOUTH PARK EXECUTIVE JOHN HEIMS NAMED 2025 RECIPIENT OF VIRGIL ‘BUDDY’ RAINES AWARD

OCEANPORT, N.J. – Long-time Monmouth Park executive John Heims, currently the track’s general manager and in-house counsel, has been named the 2025 recipient of the Virgil “Buddy” Raines Distinguished Achievement Award, it was announced today by Monmouth Park.

The Raines Award, currently in its 30th year, is presented annually prior to Monmouth Park’s season opener. It honors men and women who have demonstrated a continuing commitment to the sport of Thoroughbred racing as an owner, trainer or administrator, and whose conduct has been exemplary for professionalism, integrity and service to the sport.

Monmouth Park’s 80th season of racing gets underway on Saturday, May 10.

Heims has been at Monmouth Park since 1997, serving in a variety of roles. He started at the Jersey Shore track as the Publicity Assistant, moving on to become the Director of Media Relations, In-House Counsel, Director of Racing/Racing Secretary and is currently the General Manager.

He previously worked at Hialeah Park (Publicity Director), Gulfstream Park (Simulcast Director) and Atlantic City Race Course.

“It’s a great honor to be placed in the same company with so many of the previous recipients – Willard Thompson, Dennis Drazin, John Forbes, Jan Laszlo, Richard Malouf, Bill Anderson, Mike Musto and all the honorees,” Heims said. “It is a privilege just to be mentioned alongside them.

“Having grown up at the Jersey Shore, Monmouth Park has been the only place I ever wanted to spend my time. To be so lucky and fortunate to work here for nearly 30 years, although when it’s a labor of love it’s not really work, has been a true blessing.”

A graduate of Clemson University, Heims received a graduate degree in Equine Administration from the University of Louisville and a Juris Doctor from Widener University.

He has a private law practice in Toms River.

The list of previous Raines Award winners:

1996: J. Willard Thompson
1997: Danny Perlswieg
1998: Warren A. “Jimmy” Croll
1999: Joe Pierce Jr.
2000: Peter Shannon
2001: Dennis Drazin
2002: Sam Fieramosca
2003: Charles and Marianne Hesse
2004: Janet Laszlo
2005: Richard Malouf
2006: John Forbes
2007: Ben Perkins Sr.
2008: Gerald and Carolyn Sleeter
2009: Joel Kligman
2010: John Tammaro III
2011: Frank Costa
2012: John Mazza
2013: Ebby Novak
2014: Chuck Spina
2015: Bob Baffert
2016: Ed Barney
2017: Bob Kulina
2018: Mike Musto
2019: Tim Hills
2020: Leonard Green
2021: Bill Anderson
2022: Millie Fleming
2023: Pat McBurney
2024: John Bowers Jr.