



Owner Candidate

JAMES W. RASHID

Jim Rashid was born and raised in Hialeah, Fla., across the street from Hialeah Park where his grandfather worked for Calumet Farm. Horse racing was in his blood.

After serving in the Air Force from 1972-76, Rashid moved to Maryland and started a new career in the specialty bedding industry, and over the following 40 years was involved with every aspect of the industry, including manufacturing and sales in Asia, Europe and the United States

In January 2020 Rashid sold his bedding business to focus on and be more involved in Maryland racing—his interest goes back to 2007, when he visited the Bowie Training Center, met the late Eddie Gaudet and discussed entering the business as an owner.

Rashid, who contacted trainer Phil Schoenthal on the suggestion of Gaudet, claimed his first horse in May of that year and subsequently spent 10 years in the claiming business. Over the last three years he has focused on buying yearlings. The first purchase came in 2018: a Maryland-bred filly named Gifted Heart, who won her first two races and was second in the first running of Dickie Moore Stakes at Charles Town.

In 2019 Rashid purchased another yearling and a Maryland-bred broodmare who produced a foal this year and is back in foal. In 2020 Rashid purchased a Maryland-bred yearling colt out of Midshipman.

“The experience and excitement from being at the farm to watching your yearling mature and grow, and then getting her to the racetrack, is a thrill of a lifetime,” Rashid said. “I hope everyone will have the opportunity to experience it.”

Rashid has a keen interest in improving the environment for owners in Maryland and using resources to cultivate new owners. He called it his top priority.

“We need to establish better communication between the MTHA board and owners, which in turn will strengthen the future growth for Maryland racing,” Rashid said. “We must work to unite and represent owners so they have a voice—I would certainly be open to meeting with any owner or potential owners—and encourage them to bring forward questions, suggestions or concerns. Our owners are one of the major promoters that can bring in new potential owners.”