

# NEWSMAKERS

Compiled by Megan Silveira, assistant editor

*Within this “Newsmakers” column we share important news and accomplishments of our members, including state association activities, birth and marriage announcements, and news of Angus members’ passing.*

## In Passing



**Ann Hammack Long**, 86, of Butler, Mo., died Friday, Oct. 30, at her home in Butler. She was born April 13,

1934, to Aubrey Jack and Willie Scott Pigford Hammack in Macon, Miss.

Ann is survived by her husband, Curtis; two sons, Curtis Jr. and wife, Becky, and Kent and wife, Michelle; and three grandchildren.

**Robert (Bob) Sampson Brackin Jr.**, 81, died Nov. 11. Bob was born to Robert Sampson Brackin Sr. and Blanche McCormick Brackin on



March 27, 1939, in Oskaloosa, Iowa. Bob was raised on the family farm with brothers, Ben and Paul, and sister, Laura, in

Indianapolis, Iowa.

Bob was an avid reader and subscriber of the *Angus Journal*, even appearing in a couple of articles later in life. After graduating high school at What Cheer High in 1957, he answered an ad for a ranch hand at Haystack Angus Ranch at Longmont, Colo. Bob always liked to tell the story of him riding in a train car with

a load of bulls from Longmont to the Cow Palace in California.

While working around Longmont, he met former Iowan Loretta Kay Cline at her uncle’s insurance office. They were married in Longmont December 28, 1963.

In 1962 Bob joined the Army and did basic training at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri, and then moved on to Fort Hood, Texas. From there he went to Fort Holabird in Maryland for training in Military Intelligence, then back to Fort Hood where he left the Army in 1965.

Returning to Colorado, Bob raised registered Hereford cattle for Roche Herefords. While working for Roche Herefords, Bob got his bachelor’s degree in agriculture business at Colorado State University. Roche Herefords dispersed in 1979, so Bob became a full-time cattle buyer.

For the next 40 years, Bob bought and sold cattle and made a lot of friendships along the way. Bob was always on the phone taking orders or just talking cattle.

Bob is survived his wife, Loretta; son, Jeff; two granddaughters; brother Paul; sister, Laura; sister-in-law, Linda; and many nieces and nephews he enjoyed teasing.

**Gail Tapley Powell**, 72, died Nov. 17 at her home in Thurmont, Md.,

surrounded by her family, friends and cat, Blackie Powell.

Born on January 31, 1948, in Louisville, Ga., Gail was the daughter of the late Ruth Lundy Tapley and the late William Jennings Tapley. Gail graduated from Margaret McEvoy High School in Macon, Ga., in 1966 and from Wesleyan College in 1970.

Gail is survived by her husband of 33 years, William D. Powell, Jr.; stepson, William D.; stepdaughter, Rebecca; three grandchildren; sister and brother-in-law Peggy and Donald; and special friend Pam Ellison.

When Gail was going through school, she worked for a loan company and as a proofreader for a local newspaper. Later Gail showed a number of champion cattle for livestock fitting service in Anderson, S.C. She went on to manage Bermidkin Farm in Wagener, S.C., and during her time there, she selected a bull for the farm that went on to be a national champion Charolais bull.

Aside from her work with Angus cattle, Gail had experience showing Limousin, Simmental, Charolais and Brahman cattle. She was gifted in



the show ring and helped lead 4-H clinics about showing beef cattle. Additionally, Gail had a wealth of experience outside the show ring from judging shows to clerking numerous cattle and machinery sales, especially sales with the Virginia Angus Association.

A partner in Arrowhead Farms in Thurmont, Md., Gail tended faithfully to the farm. She was very handy, and she loved to fix and put things together. She cared for the animals on the farm from the herd of Angus cattle and her late, beloved dog Wolf, to the birds and hummingbirds, and even a large number of cats in more recent years. Along with her husband, Gail was awarded the Maryland Angus Association 1988 Maryland Angus Family of the year, and in 2003 she was inducted to the Virginia Association Hall of Merit.

Gail enjoyed all kinds of sports, especially NASCAR. When she was younger, Gail worked as an usher at Daytona Beach. She had a competitive nature and didn't like to lose games or sports (or bingo). In her younger years, Gail enjoyed playing softball, volleyball and bowling. She also enjoyed hunting and fishing.

Gail had a warm, caring personality and a knack for making friends wherever she went. Unsurprisingly, Gail had friends all across the country, from both her Angus days and the many places she lived. She loved bingo, having a knack for winning and sharing her "pointers" with others. As she played bingo, Gail made many wonderful friends from the games in Walkersville, Emmitsburg and Thurmont. With her smooth Georgia drawl, many people enjoyed talking with Gail not only for her stories but also to listen to her speak.

## In Recognition Distinguished Alumni Animal and Poultry Sciences Award

**Dr. Guy Kiracofe**, Kansas State University (K-State) Department of Animal Sciences and Industry (ASI) professor emeritus, was awarded the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Distinguished Alumni Animal and Poultry Sciences Award in 2020.

Born in Mount Solon, Va., Kiracofe received his bachelor's and master's degrees at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 1958 and 1960. He received his doctorate



from K-State in reproductive physiology in 1965. After obtaining his doctorate, he did a postdoctoral fellowship in

neuroendocrinology at the University of Kentucky Medical School.

Kiracofe returned to K-State in 1966 to join the ASI faculty. From 1966 to 1991, he was awarded the university's top awards in undergraduate teaching, student advising and club advising. Kiracofe has published more than 60 scientific research papers and served as a major professor for 12 doctorate and 20 master's degrees.

His research was among the first reported of using a progestogen in combination with prostaglandin for synchronization of estrus in cattle. Kiracofe's research helped demonstrate several physiological interrelationships that contribute to the success and failure of estrous synchronization in cattle.

Among his publications, the article on uterine involution after parturition, and its role in regulating the post-partum interval to ovulation in farm animals, was one of the most

highly referenced articles in animal reproduction. He received research grants from both federal competitive grants and commercial grants that amounted to more than \$500,000.

From 1991 to 2001, he served as University of Kentucky animal science department head. While in that role, he oversaw the building of new facilities for sheep, swine and beef research. After retiring from the University of Kentucky, he returned to K-State and worked part-time as an advisor for students, clubs and student recruitment for the ASI department.

Part of Kiracofe's K-State legacy is the "Kiracofe Lecture Series," established in 1991. This series has allowed for 25 of the most outstanding reproductive physiologists in the country to visit the K-State ASI department for three days and interact with students and faculty, present a class lecture and seminar, and present the Kiracofe Lecture.

## Vice President of SDSA

**Vaughn Meyer** of Reva, S.D., was reelected to serve as the vice president of the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association (SDSA) at the 129<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention and Trade Show hosted November 7 in Rapid City.

"Vaughn is an outspoken advocate of independent ranchers and property rights," said Scott Edoff, reelected president of the SDSA. "We are happy he is willing to continue to help lead the Stockgrowers."

Meyer is a former member of the American Angus Association Board of Directors. 