

# NEWS MAKERS

Compiled by Megan Silveira, associate 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



**Isaiah “Ike” Fearing Jackson**, 78, a native of Elizabeth City, N.C., died Sept. 21, 2023.

Jackson was born April 1 (Easter Sunday and April Fool’s Day), 1945, to William Thomas Jackson, Jr. and Margaret Fearing Jackson. His childhood was spent on Main Street playing and enjoying time with close neighborhood friends.

After graduating Elizabeth City High School in 1963, Jackson enrolled at UNC-Chapel Hill where he finally became a “real/true” Tarheel. Deciding to join the brotherhood of Sigma Phi Epsilon enabled Jackson to form close friendships with many others from various locations. Upon earning a Bachelor of Science in business in 1967, he enlisted and served for twelve years in the U.S. Coast Guard.

Because of his love of the rich soil of his family’s century farm in Weeksville, N.C., Jackson spent his life tending, planting and harvesting crops and caring for his registered Angus herd. Due to health issues, he was forced into retirement in 2016.

Jackson not only served his country, but his community, as well. His service included as president of the North Carolina Cattlemen’s Association, directorships on the boards of First Union Bank, College of the Albemarle, Albemarle

Hospital, Pasquotank County Farm Bureau, and he was a former member and chairman of the Elizabeth City Pasquotank Board of Education. As a lifelong member of First United Methodist Church, he dedicated much of his time serving in various capacities at the church.

Jackson leaves behind his wife of 56 years, Kathrine; daughters, Allysn (Robert) and Margo (John); two grandchildren; brother, William Thomas III (Jonnie); a niece; nephews; and cousins.



**Raymond Harvey**, 83, died peacefully, surrounded by his loving family, Sept. 29, 2023.

Harvey was born Dec. 16, 1939, in Lewisburg, W.V., to Edna Eufa and Howard Taft Harvey. He graduated with a bachelor’s degree from West Virginia University and continued his academic pursuit at North Carolina State University (NCSU), where he received his doctorate in animal science in 1963.

As professor of animal science at NCSU, he devoted his life to educating students in the fine art of animal husbandry. Along the way he broadened the knowledge of many purebred Angus breeders in his low-key and unpretentious way. He served as faculty advisor and coached the NCSU livestock judging team for many years.

Harvey was a member of the Academy of Outstanding Teachers at NCSU and served on the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Angus Association. He held the position of *ex officio* director of the North Carolina Cattlemen’s Association until his retirement in 1996. In recognition of his many achievements, he was inducted into the North Carolina State Fair Livestock Hall of Fame.

Beyond his professional pursuits, Harvey found joy in spending time with his family, playing golf and sharing meals with friends.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Charlotte; two sons, Bradley (Mary) and David; daughter, Amy (Tom); three grandchildren; and two sisters, Catherine and Loma.



**Ira Boggs**, 83, died Oct. 30, 2023, in Tulsa, Okla. Boggs was born Aug. 17, 1940, in Norman, Okla., to Earl and

Mamie (Stafford) Boggs.

Boggs’ passion for Angus cattle began at a very young age, and he was active in the Cleveland County 4-H Club before attending Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Okla. He had an exceptional knowledge of Angus pedigrees.

After college Boggs journeyed to Ankony Farms in Rhinebeck, N.Y., owned by Allan Ryan and Lee and Lester Leachman. He was put

in charge of the Scotch unit that consisted of 40 select females of 100% Scotch breeding, with many of them being direct imports. While in charge, Boggs produced the 1964 international grand champion bull Ankonian President, the famous sire of Ankonian Jingo 2 and a host of other breed legends.

After Ankony, Boggs worked for Desmond Abel in Indiana. In the early 1970s, he became the general manager of Sir William Farm in Hillsdale, N.Y. During his time at Sir William Farm and Sir William Angus, he acted as a mentor to many. Boggs was a skilled breeder of Angus cattle and produced several influential bulls. He had numerous record-breaking production sales at the farm.

Boggs and his daughter, Sonya, played a key role in establishing the Berkshire Junior Angus Association. The association gained nationwide recognition for its high-quality Angus cattle. Later, Boggs partnered with Jay Preston Swecker in Virginia, and they bred and trained a female that went on to become an international grand champion. Boggs had established his own herd near McAlester, Okla., which was based on strong carcass genetics.

Boggs had tremendous knowledge of the Angus breed and was a natural at making matings that produced cattle that moved the breed forward. Boggs enjoyed the friendship of Angus breeders worldwide.

Boggs is survived by a daughter, Sonya (Paul); sons, Leland (Jodie), Charles "Ryan" (Katelyn); second wife, Joanna (Papa); and three grandchildren.



**James "Dave" David Nichols,** 84, of Anita, Iowa, died Nov. 4, 2023.

With his passing, the industry lost a unique legend, and his family, friends, the Nichols Farm crew and his community lost a pillar. In the beef industry, Nichols was one of the very few remaining from the first generation of performance pioneers from the 1950s who blazed a path in the beef industry based on science and objective selection.

He was the last living member of the first Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) board. They were responsible for helping to standardize performance terminology, techniques and processes.

During his 70-year career breeding seedstock, Nichols never took his eyes off the horizon, always looking for new technology and the chance to participate in research that would move the industry forward.

As the largest seedstock operation in the Midwest, Nichols Farms has sold industry-changing genetics throughout the United States, as well as in 30 other countries. Nichols has been recognized by the BIF, Iowa State University, American Simmental Association, American Angus Association, Livestock Publication Council, and Saddle and Sirloin. He also served on about every board and council of substance in the industry.

Although Nichols leaves behind him another lifetime of ideas and plans for a more efficient and profitable beef industry, he is

reunited with his wife and soulmate, Phyllis, and his beloved brother and partner, Lee, both of whom preceded him in death.

Nichols met Phyllis at the Adair County Fair while both were helping younger brothers and sisters get cattle ready to show. Both attended ISU, but dropped out to get married when Phyllis was a junior. The couple were married May 15, 1965.

Nichols collected Oliver tractors and enjoyed watching sports with his family. His favorite teams included the Iowa State Cyclones and the Kansas City Chiefs.

Survivors include son, Fletcher; daughter, Jennifer; sister-in-law and partner in Nichols Farms, Lillian; brother-in-law, Lans; nephew, Chuck (Laurie); nieces, Deb (Brandon), Ann (Shan), Jill and Angie; nephew, Lee; cousins; Nichols Farms employees and their families; grandchildren; and caregiver, Connie Emgarten and her family. 