

# 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



**William “W.D.” Pipkin**, 92, passed away Jan. 19, at the family farm.

He was born Oct. 3, 1930, in Springfield, Mo., the only child of

Morris Staley and Geraldine Anna (Brown) Pipkin.

A product of the Great Depression, W.D. was as tough as the era he was born into. His resiliency was perhaps his most admirable trait as he weathered the storms of life with a tenacious spirit and always knew better days were yet to come. W.D. was a farmer and stockman who strived to make tomorrow a better day than today.

Raised on the family’s Clearwater Farm west of Springfield, W.D. was proud of his heritage. He was the fifth generation to live and work the land his family first settled in 1867. Just 2 years old when his father, Morris, and grandfather, W.H., purchased their first Angus cattle, W.D. developed a fondness for exhibiting the family’s prized seedstock. He would travel across the country exhibiting both cattle and their registered Berkshire hogs, quickly becoming a respected breeder of quality livestock.

W.D. attended Republic High School, graduating in 1947. He was a member of the FFA and was the first recipient from Republic to achieve

the American Future Farmer Degree. After high school, W.D. served two years in the U.S. Navy before returning home to the family farm. It was a decision he never regretted.

May 26, 1956, W.D. married Bonita Blades. They raised their three children on the farm, instilling in them the value of hard work. Their time together included countless trips to fairs, National Junior Angus Shows and numerous livestock sales.

Over the years, W.D. was a prominent fixture in southwest Missouri agriculture. He was a Greene County 4-H beef project leader, and under his guidance the farm regularly hosted regional livestock judging meets for what is now Missouri State University. An advocate for youth, W.D. strived to help teach young people the value of accomplishing a task.

W.D. was a founding member of the Southwest Missouri All-Breed Performance Tested Bull Sale and was a lifelong member of the American Angus Association and Missouri Angus Association. He served as an advisory board member for the Ozark Empire Fair and was past president of the Missouri Angus Association and the Ozark Empire Angus Association.

W.D. was honored in 1997 with the Missouri Angus Pioneer Breeder Award and by the Ozark Empire Fair Foundation in 2010 with the inaugural Pioneer Award.

W.D.’s passions were his family, his farm and his Angus cows. Whether he was leaning in the window of a pickup truck or perched atop the show box at a fair or the Ozark Fall Farmfest, W.D. loved to “sell” and “talk” Angus cattle with customers and friends alike.

W.D. is survived by his wife of 66 years, Bonita; three children, Nancy (Keith), Mary Anne (Mark), and Jim (Joann); five grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter, and two more due yet this year.



**Clinton M. “Bubba” Crosby, Jr.**, 75, of Claxton, Ga., passed away Jan. 23, at his home.

Bubba was born in Savannah, Ga., to the late Clinton M. Crosby, Sr. and Virginia Bennett Crosby.

An electrician by trade, in the 1970s Bubba founded a civil and sitework company in Savannah, Ga.

He had many lifelong employees he worked with side by side. In addition to operating the construction company, he served on the Board of Directors for Southside Fire Department/Chatham Emergency Services for more than 30 years.

In 1994 Bubba purchased his beloved farm in Claxton, Ga. He worked very hard developing the land and named it Circle C Farm. His interest in the sport of cutting horses

led to his desire to compete, resulting in winning many titles.

Over the years, Bubba strived and succeeded in producing the highest quality of Angus cattle in the industry. As a result of his hard work, in 2020 he was presented with the Commercial Producer of the Year award by the Georgia Angus Association.

Bubba cherished his family more than anything. He leaves behind his wife, Judy; children, Jennifer (Darin), Misty (Chad) and Chance (Aly); six grandchildren; brother, Ray; and several nieces and nephews.



**Glenda "Susie" Brown**, 76, Saint Joseph, Mo., died Feb. 6, 2023.

Born Oct. 24, 1946, in Saint Joseph to

Leonard S. "Dee Dee" and Shirley L. (Miller) Phillips, she graduated from Central High School and Saint Joseph Junior College and attended Northwest Missouri State University.

March 15, 1969, she married Albert P. Brown. They have one daughter, Marcie. She is survived by both Albert and Marcie (Garrett). She is also survived by cousins, Linda (Gary), Trudy (Chris) and Tracy (Jeanie).

She worked in the office at the American Angus Association for 20 years. Susie attended Central Christian Church, and she formerly attended Francis Street First United Methodist Church. She loved to dance with her husband.



**Andrew Jay McCurry**, 72, passed away Feb. 12, 2023, at his home in Burrton, Kan., surrounded by his loving family.

Andy was born Sept. 8, 1950,

in Hutchinson, Kan., to Ruth (Campbell) and A.J. McCurry.

Andy graduated from Burrton High School in 1968 and obtained a bachelor's degree in Animal Sciences & Industry from Kansas State University in 1978. Andy made a career change to meet his family goals and was accepted into the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy, graduating in 1990. He worked as a pharmacist in the Hutchinson area for 30 years retiring on his 70th birthday in 2020. He also worked for the Kansas Livestock Association from 1980-1984.

Andy married Mary Elizabeth Smith Aug. 5, 1977, in Jackson, Tenn. Together they created a registered Angus operation, McCurry Angus Ranch (formerly Marands Angus using their combined names, Andy & Mary). As a third-generation Angus breeder, Andy wanted something he could call his own and not someone else's legacy. It wasn't the easy way, but in reality he created his own legacy, his own Angus herd and ranch.

Andy worked tirelessly behind the scenes to turn a run-down piece of property into his own "homeplace." A lifetime of pounding posts by hand for more than 40 years turned into a place hosting many livestock judging teams, visitors from across the United States, cattle sales, chuckwagon cookouts and a place to raise his family. His work ethic, dependability and strong, solid values were the backbone of the decisions he made in his life.

Andy's gift was the ability to meet people from all walks of life and visit with them. His network of friends was nationwide, thanks to many years showing cattle with his family's operation. There wasn't a cattle event anywhere in the country that Andy didn't know or see someone he had

met in his journey with Angus cattle.

Andy was recognized with the 2012 "Doc" Woerpel Award; 2003 Honorary Angus Foundation; 2000 Kansas 4-H Family of the Year (1999 Reno County 4-H Family of the Year); 2015 Beef Improvement Federation Seedstock Producer of the Year (Kansas Livestock Association's 2015 Seedstock Producer of the Year); 2016 Kansas Fairgrounds Foundation "Wall of Honor"; and the 2016 Kansas Angus Ass'n Honorary Member.

He was also the advisor of the Kansas Junior Angus Association, and under his tutelage, the juniors won 16 sweepstakes in a row at the National Junior Angus Show.

He is survived by his wife, Mary; children, John (Melody) and Emily (Tyson); five grandchildren; siblings, Carole (Rick) and Ray (Rose); brother-in-law, Raymond; and several nieces and nephews.

## In Recognition

The Tom Perrier Family is the 2023 Stockman of the Year. The award is presented annually by the Livestock & Meat Industry Council (LMIC).

Tom and his wife, Carolyn, are fourth-generation ranchers in the Flint Hills. They were instrumental in implementing technologies such as performance recordkeeping, artificial insemination (AI), expected progeny difference (EPD) use and ultrasound evaluation since their return from military service in 1969.

Robert and Alice and their first three children homesteaded a farm three miles northwest of Eureka, Kan., in 1867 and named their farm "Dalebanks" — the same name of their ancestral farm and region in their homeland of England.

Just like three generations of ancestors, Tom and Carolyn have

*Continued on page 168*

always believed in giving back to their community and industry through service in various organizations. Carolyn has served and led her PEO Chapter, Greenwood County 4-H Foundation, Upper Fall River Jayhawkers 4-H Club, Greenwood Preservation Society, Greenwood County Cattlewomen, Entre Nous, Music Club and the Sacred Heart Altar Society.

Tom served as Kansas Angus Association president and as a board member of the Greenwood County Fair Association, Eureka USD 389 School Board, Greenwood County Cattlemen's Association, Greenwood County Farm Bureau, Kansas Livestock Association and Fall River Watershed District. He also served two terms on the American Angus Association Board of Directors. Their children have always been the true

priority, and they are very proud of each of them.

Matt and Amy and their children, Ava, Lyle, Hannah, Henry and Hope, live on the ranch. Amy is a part-time physical therapist, working in the local school, hospital and rehabilitation clinic. She also advocates for the beef community through the Greenwood County Cattlewomen social media platforms, in addition to her full-time roles as ranch wife and mother.

In addition to his managerial duties at Dalebanks, Matt recently finished his term as president of the Beef Improvement Federation and is a past president of the Kansas Livestock Association, Greenwood County Farm Bureau and the Greenwood County Cattlemen's Associations. He currently serves on the Kansas Health Institute and

hosts a biweekly podcast, *Practically Ranching*.

Michele and Russ Callejo and children, Luke and Alice, reside in Roseville, Calif. Russ serves as deputy regional director for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and Michele, who served in a variety of research roles in both the animal and human pharmaceutical fields, now cares for their children and volunteers with numerous community organizations in the area.

Mark and Kelly Perrier and their children, Lauren and Drew, live in Wichita, Kan. Mark is senior financial analyst for Rabo AgriFinance, and Kelly is director of deli and retail channel grocery sales for Cargill.

## Kansas Angus Association Annual Meeting and Banquet, Hutchinson, Jan. 21



Elected to serve on the Kansas Angus Association (front row from left) are Jeff Klausmeyer, Wellington, past president; Cash Schilling, Edson, treasurer; Lynne Hinrichsen, Westmoreland, vice president; and Darin Huck, Dodge City, president. Pictured back row (from left) are Steph Dickerson, Paradise, director; Elizabeth Perkins, Lorraine, director; Joshua Laffin, Olsburg, director; and Anna Lampe, Scott City, secretary/manager. Photo by Kansas Angus Association.



Dave Nichols, Manhattan, Kan., was inducted as the 2022 Kansas Angus Association Honorary Member. Pictured (from left) Gordon Stucky, presenting; Stuart Rose, presenting; Dave Nichols, recipient; and Mark Gardiner, honorary committee member, presenting. Photo by Anne Lampe.