

# 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



**John Anderson Quirk**, Hastings, Neb., died April 11. John was born June 11, 1951, in Hastings and was the son of

John P. and Helen Quirk.

He graduated from Hastings High School in 1969. He then attended Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., where he graduated *magna cum laude* with a degree in economics in 1973.

After college, John returned to Hastings to serve as president of Quirk Land & Cattle Co., a position he held until his death. Quirk Land & Cattle Co. has operations in Nebraska, South Dakota, Texas and Arkansas.

He was a founding member and executive secretary of the Amerifax Cattle Association, which served to promote the Amerifax breed (a cross between Angus and Beef Friesian).

John served on the Nebraska Rural Development Commission from 1991 to 2003, and was involved in other numerous statewide public service boards.

He served on the school board for District 15 Elementary School from 1991 to 2007. He also served on the Adams Central Schools Foundation from 2001 until his death.

He was the Treasurer of the Adams

County Democrats for 44 years. Politics is what brought John and Deb Hardin together. In 1976 John was volunteering for the presidential campaign of Jimmy Carter, and Deb was working on a local city council campaign. She contacted him for advice in running the campaign.

Both of their candidates won in the fall — hers by seven votes. John and Deb were engaged on July 7, 1977, and were married December of that year.

John is survived by his wife, Deb; son, Andrew Robert (Rob); sister and brother-in-law, Mary and James; and many nieces and nephews.



**Don Harold Peterson**, 83, Horner, West Va., passed away April 24. He was born in Horner, on Aug. 16, 1937, to

Ancil Peterson and Nell (Taylor) Peterson. Don was married to his loving wife of 62 years Mida (Bailey) Peterson on June 1, 1958.

Don was a graduate of Weston High School class of 1955. After high school, Don attended West Virginia University for two years before returning home to work on the farm. He served in the Army Reserves for six years. Don loved to watch the West Virginia Mountaineer football team and had season tickets and attended games for 30 years. He was a member

of the Stone Coal United Methodist Church and served in several leadership positions over the years.

Don was the owner and operator of Rocking P Angus Farm in Horner, where they hosted their 50th production sale in November of 2019.

He was a member of the American Angus Association and served as the secretary of the West Virginia Angus Association for 20 years. Don attended many national meetings as a delegate from West Virginia. Don worked with the West Virginia Beef Expo and served as Angus Sale Manager for over 20 years. He sent bulls to feed test programs in West Virginia, Ohio and Montana and had the top selling bull at the first Wardensville Bull Test Sale.

Don served as president of the Lewis/Upshur and West Virginia Cattleman’s Associations. He was a member of the Lewis County Farm Bureau. Don was inducted into the West Virginia Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame. Don loved to watch his grandchildren show cattle and was always ready to talk Angus cattle. Don was a farmer by heart.

Don is survived by his wife, Mida; son, Ernie Arnold (Lisa); two grandchildren; one great grandchild; and several nieces and nephews. 