

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



Leon Kleeman, 80, Miller, Mo., died April 5. He was born Oct. 5, 1941, in Lockwood, Mo., the son of Bertus Otto and Maree Edith (Scott) Kleeman.

Leon was a 1959 graduate of Miller High School. He had hard work instilled in him from a young age. Leon's passion for Angus cattle ignited when he was 8 years old, and his father gave him an Angus-crossed bottle calf. Later Leon became a member of 4-H and FFA, where he exhibited steers at local shows. Leon saved the money earned from selling his steers and purchased his first Angus heifers during the 1950s.

When Leon was 20 years old, he earned success in the show ring when he showed the grand champion female and bull at the Ozark Empire Fair. As a young man, he traveled the country preparing cattle for the major shows and sales. Leon worked among many other outfits on the show circuit.

He exhibited cattle at the Chicago International Livestock Show; Eastern National Livestock Show; San Antonio Stock Show; and the Houston Stock Show, where he fit multiple champion animals.

While traveling the country among phenomenal Angus genetics, Leon took what he learned and started Gleonda Angus Farms on the right

track. Leon was awarded the 2020 Missouri Cattlemen's Pioneer Award, which is the highest achievement within the association; 2012 Missouri Angus Association Pioneer Award; and the 2013 Historic Angus Herd Award. Leon will be missed by his family and friends as his legacy continues to live on.

Nov. 14, 1964, he married Glenda Burlene Hunter in Miller.

Leon is survived by his wife, Glenda; two daughters, Gina (Howard) and Lana; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; three brothers, Louis (Clea), Stanley (Bonnie) and Joe; and several nieces and nephews.



Eric Nathan Leachman, 51, Toston, Mont., died April 4.

Eric was born in Manhattan, Kan., Dec. 18, 1970. The family moved to Bozeman, Mont., in 1973. Eric attended Monforton School and Bozeman High School. After graduation, Eric served in the U.S. Navy for six years.

Upon returning to Bozeman, Eric worked alongside his dad in the operation of Leachman Angus Ranch. Eric met his one true love and soul mate, Marlo Mangini, at the NILE cattle show in Billings, Mont., in October 1997. They were married on June 5, 1999.

In 2005, Eric and family moved to

Toston, Mont., where he and Marlo worked side by side continuing the Leachman Angus Ranch tradition of raising black Angus cattle.

As their children, Abby and Wade, grew they also became actively involved in the ranching operation. Eric was dedicated to his role as husband, father and steward of the land. One of his great joys was watching Abby and Wade's participation in sports and livestock events.

Eric was active in the Broadwater 4-H community, serving as a leader in the livestock area. He was also active in the Montana Angus Association and a member of the American Angus Association. Just recently he was serving on the board of Rocky Mountain Supply, which he was enjoying and felt he was learning more about the agricultural industry. Eric loved the cattle and farming.

Eric is survived by his wife, Marlo; children, Abby and Wade; brother, Adam (Jen); and parents, Jay and Cheryl Leachman.



William "Bill" Powell, Jr., 82, Thurmont, Md., died April 7, on his beloved Arrowhead Farms.

Born March 3, 1940, in Frederick, Md., Bill was the son of the late Katharine Trundle Powell and the late William Delaplaine Powell, Sr. of Walkersville, Md.

Bill was a cowboy, literally. His life's work centered around agriculture and cattle. After graduating from Walkersville High School, class of 1958, Bill attended the University of Maryland and served as a state president of the FFA. Bill served as the secretary/fieldman for the Virginia Angus Association. He then worked as the manager for REA Ranch in Texas and later served as a field representative for both the *Drovers Journal* and the *Livestock Breeders Journal*.

Bill completed his career by spending 23 years as the East Coast regional manager for the American Angus Association. He traveled from Virginia to Maine and into eastern Canada promoting the breed and helping many develop their herds.

Bill served as a mentor to many people in the cattle business and was quick to share his wisdom and experience. Throughout his work, Bill enjoyed encouraging young people interested in agriculture and Angus cattle and helping them grow into community leaders.

In 1988 his family was named Maryland Angus Farm Family of the Year. In 2003, the year he retired, Bill was honored with the Livestock Marketeer of the Year Award at the National Western Stock Show and was inducted into the Virginia Association Hall of Merit. In 2020, he was honored to receive the Angus Heritage Award. Bill's measure of a person was the kind of beef they raised or ate, and for him, only one breed mattered — Angus.

Upon his retirement, Bill was active in the Thurmont community. He was a member of the Thurmont Grange, and along with his wife, Gail, was involved with the Thurmont Community Show. Bill was a member of Glade United Church of Christ.

Ever the storyteller, Bill loved to tell stories, some of which were actually true. If he didn't know the answer to a question or was just feeling ornery, he had no qualms about making up a story to astonish or amuse his audience.

Bill had an outgoing personality, a big heart, a wild sense of humor and a fierce stubborn streak. He felt very blessed to live a good life doing work he loved and meeting countless people from household names to dedicated local community leaders and farmers.

Like his mother, he had the rare gift of making friends throughout his entire life and took a keen interest in those around him. Bill influenced many lives in the cattle industry and in the local community, and will be greatly missed.

Bill is survived by his son, William D. Powell, III (Jen); his daughter, Rebecca (Matthew); three grandchildren; sister- and brother-in-law, Peggy and Donald; numerous nieces and nephews; and special friend, Pam Ellison. Bill was predeceased by his beloved wife of 33 years, Gail.



Robert "Bob" Norton, 75, St. Joseph, Mo., died April 13.

Born Dec. 19, 1946, to Robert Sr. and

Geraldine Norton, Bob, the oldest of five children, learned early on the importance of leadership and responsibility to those we care about. He carried this philosophy throughout his life and was devoted to his family and to leading companies for the success of the people who worked there.

Bob's path to business took a few turns as he gathered knowledge at each bend in the road. After

graduating from Central High School, he had a brief stint in junior college before admitting fun took precedence over studies.

For his next adventure, Bob enlisted in the Air Force where he served in Phoenix, Ariz., and Okinawa, Japan, before returning to Saint Joseph and college. He earned a bachelor's degree in business from Missouri Western State College and eventually earned his MBA from Northwest Missouri State University.

After college he started a career in healthcare, but soon found his footing in the meat harvesting and packing business. During this time, he served as head of Beef America Inc., a *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB)-brand licensee. He also served on the board of directors of CAB for 12 years from 2001 to 2012 and was a chairman for three years.

During that time, CAB made advancements in consumer marketing and product quality, as well as launching CAB brand Natural. This kept him on the move to Iowa, Nebraska and beyond. His career led him back to Saint Joseph, Mo., when he became the CEO of BioZyme Incorporated.

His path widened along the way, and he started his family with two sons — Jason (Genny) and Ryan (Caity). Bob's family grew nicely in 1988 when he gained a daughter, Ashley, whom he ultimately adopted in 2005.

"Papa" Bob had five grandchildren. He loved his children and all his family unequivocally, including his siblings Tom (Robin), Mary Beth (Denny), Roxanne (Jeffrey) and Samuel Scott (Pam).

In 2006, he married Lisa. Lisa brought Lynsey (Dalton) with her to the family, and Bob gained a bonus

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daughter. Bob's support for Lisa was tremendous, and he stood beside her in all that she desired to do. Not always on the first try, but always. She will forever be grateful for his love.

Bob's generosity was monumental and included service to colleagues and support for community. He was a long-time supporter of AFIA, United Way, Shriners, Missouri Western State University and Veterans Airlift Command. A member of Wyatt Park

Baptist Church, Bob served on many committees and his philanthropy helped many people who never knew from where it came.

Bob had a genuine commitment to supporting the future of agriculture and did so with his whole heart. National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members admired his actions and his attitude as an example to follow. He served as an advisor to the Angus Foundation during the Vision

of Value campaign. In recognition for his service, he was inducted into the Honorary Angus Foundation in 2007.

He believed that, "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously" (2 Corinthians 9:6). Bob was an incredibly generous man, and his spirit of caring and generosity is ingrained in us all.

South Carolina Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting and Banquet, March 18, Clemson



Angus breeders elected to serve on the South Carolina board of directors (seated from left) are Paige McPhail, Seneca, secretary; and Sally Yon Harrison, Ridge Spring. Standing (from left) are Hank Sprowl Greenwood; John Ripstein, Sumter; John Garrett,

Troy; Dixon Shealy, Newberry, president; Lee Clinton, Clover, vice president; Lee Haddon, Gaffney; Michael Johnson, Kinards, treasurer; and Michael Ryan, Fair Play.



Neil Boyd (left), Paul Boyd Angus Farm, Clover, was honored with the 49th Annual Carolina Angus Futurity dedication. Also pictured is Lee Clinton, South Carolina Angus Ass'n vice president, presenting.

Northeast Arkansas Angus Ass'n Meeting, March 18, Charlotte



Justin Denson (right), Double Denson Angus, Booneville, Miss., consigned the top selling bull at the 2021 Northeast Arkansas Angus Ass'n Fall Sale. Also pictured is Bill Davis, Northeast Arkansas Angus Ass'n president, presenting.



Stuart Johnson (right), Golden J Farms, Tupelo, Miss., consigned the top selling cow-calf pair at the 2021 Northeast Arkansas Angus Ass'n Fall Sale. Also pictured is Stacey Speer, Northeast Arkansas Angus Ass'n vice president, presenting.



Chris Fulper, Fulper Angus Farm, Booneville, Miss., consigned the top-selling bred female at the 2021 Northeast Arkansas Angus Ass'n Fall Sale. Pictured (from left) are Stacey Speer, presenting, and Caroline Fulper, accepting for Chris.



Luke Foster (right), Foster Angus Ranch, Paragould, Ark., consigned the top-selling open heifer at the 2021 Northeast Arkansas Angus Ass'n Fall Sale. Also pictured is Bill Davis, presenting.

Editor's note: Photo by Margaret Davis, courtesy of American Angus Association.

Kentucky Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting and Banquet, March 4, Louisville



Sam Fouts (center), London, received an Appreciation Award for his service to the Kentucky Angus Ass'n board of directors. Also pictured presenting are Henry Smith (left) Kentucky Angus Ass'n president, and Bryanna Smith (right), Miss Kentucky Angus.



Jason Crowe (center), Irvine, was presented with the Retiring President award. Also pictured presenting are Henry Smith (left) and Bryanna Smith (right).



Elected to serve on the Kentucky Angus Ass'n board of directors (seated from left) are Keith Johnson, Slaughters; Amy White, Lexington; Anne Patton Schubert, Taylorsville, vice president; Henry Smith, Russell Springs, president; Jason Crowe, past president; Kris Lynn, Springfield; and Jim Shaw, Hodgenville. Standing (from left) are Neal Branscum, Nancy; Larry Jagggers, Glendale; Kelly Flanders, Buffalo; Leslie Jeffries, Canmer; Wesley Womack, Pembroke; and Bob Clark, Harrodsburg.

Ohio Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting and Banquet, Jan. 15, Washington Court House



David Baird (right), Washington Court House, received the Distinguished Service Award. Also pictured is Daniel Wells, presenting.



Elected to service on the Ohio Angus Ass'n board of directors (seated from left) are Daniel Wells, Frankfort, executive secretary; Shawn Howell, Shelby, vice president; Todd Raines, Seaman; Jay Clutter, Wapakoneta; Fred Penick, Hebron; and Scott Millikan, Napoleon. Standing (from left) are Michael Atterholt Jeromesville; Ron Miller, Wapakoneta; Dan DeMeyer, West Union; Tim Harsh, Radnor; Kelvin Egner, Shelby; David Baird; and Nick Wagner IV, Attica.