

NEWSMAKERS

Compiled by Julie Mais, 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



Charles Shuford Cox, Jr., 80, Pelzer, S.C., died May 6.

He was married to Faye Eskew Cox for 57 years.

Charles was born in Greenville, S.C., to the late Charles Shuford Cox, Sr. and Etta Blanche Skelton Cox. Charles loved his family and farming. He was the owner of Cox Angus Farm in Pelzer and member of the Greenville and Laurens County Cattle Association.

He is survived by his wife, Faye; daughter, Susan and husband, Billy; a sister, Beverly and husband, Sid; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.



Stanley Gray Watts, Jr., 77, Birmingham, Ala., died May 16.

A native of Alexandria, Va., he received his

bachelor’s degree from Emory and Henry College in Virginia and completed his graduate studies with honors at Mississippi State University. After graduation he taught history at Old Dominion University.

He later had a successful 40-year career as a cattle manager in Tennessee, South Carolina,

Florida and Georgia, also serving on the American Angus Association Board of Directors for six years. He held many leadership positions, including executive director of the Tennessee Cattlemen’s Association and president of the Tennessee Angus Association.

He is survived by his wife, Cynthia; children Katherine (Byung Chun), Brandon Gray (Wency), Daria (Stephen), and Tara (DJ); seven grandchildren, four brothers and many nieces and nephews.



Olen Clifton Price, 92, of Barling, Ark., died May 22.

He was born July 28, 1927, in Branch, Ark., to the late Mathie and

Beatrice Burton Price.

Olen grew up in Branch working on the family dairy farm with his dad and brothers from the time he was a young boy. He graduated from Branch High School in 1945, then enlisted in the U.S. Navy, where he served from August 1945 until he was honorably discharged in 1946. He married Marolyn Pettigrew on Dec. 21, 1951, at First Baptist Church in Branch, Ark.

He was a salesman at Grace Paper Company, then later worked as a manager at Arkansas Paper Company; after that, he was the co-

owner of Jamar Paper Company. He was a member of Spradling Baptist Church for 64 years, serving as the church treasurer for 47 years, and a deacon for many years.

His passion was running Price Angus Farm as a breeder and cattle rancher. He served as president of the Sebastian County Angus Association, and also served as a superintendent for the Junior Angus Association at the Arkansas-Oklahoma State Fair for several years.

He is survived by his wife, Marolyn; children Teresa (Dan); Vicki (Kirk); Kendall (Kathy); six grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.



Charles Otto Williams, 91, Jena, La., died April 23.

Charles, a native of LaSalle Parish, was born to Clifford and Doris Stringer

Williams on April 15, 1929. He spent his working career as a Certified Public Accountant and raising cattle, which was a great enjoyment in his life. He received his bachelor’s degree from Northwest State University. He was a devoted Christian and member of the First Baptist Church of Jena, La.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia; daughters Sherri, Marcia (Hank) and Linda (Chuck); sister Angie; 10 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

Historic Angus Herds

Rivermont Angus Farm has been home to Angus cattle for more than 50 years.

In 1966, W.H. “Pete” Shelby along with his son, Bill Shelby, established Rivermont Angus Farm on the banks of the Tennessee River with two Angus cows purchased from Diplomat Angus Farm in Saltillo, Tenn.

In the beginning, they used natural-service sires purchased from Graham Angus in Albany, Ga., and later, purchased a son of PineDriveBigSky from Beamon Angus in Franklin, Tenn. Additional females were purchased from BoPat Angus Farm in Bradford, Tenn., and Candy Meadows Farm in Lexington, Tenn.

“We chose the Angus breed when we decided we wanted to go to naturally polled cattle,” Bill says. “Angus seemed to fit the bill for polled, trouble-free cattle.”

After seeing the results of Angus bulls being crossed with Hereford cows and noticing the improvement in all economically important traits creating market-topping calves, the decision was made to purchase purebred cattle.

“After the death of my father in 1995, I continued to develop a purebred Angus herd that was focused on maintaining the very best genetically bred cows and developing a market for purebred bulls,” Bill says. “Beginning in 1997, the cows were bred artificial insemination (AI) to the most proven bulls in the country with no turn-out bulls being used.”

Over the years, Rivermont Angus Farm has become a successfully developed market for purebred bulls to local commercial breeders and farms in Alabama, Mississippi and Florida and sold more than 300 AI-bred bulls from 1997-2019.

Two animals that were purchased from their herd went on to win grand champion and reserve grand champion at several shows with their bull RAF 804 Weigh Up 3114 and heifer RAF 389 Evergreen 166.

Today, Bill continues to manage the herd, which consists of 65 cows, 45 calves and five service-age bulls.

Underwood Angus Farms was established in 1965 in North Manchester, Ind., after Harvey Underwood purchased two purebred Angus and fell in love with them. Harvey’s goal was to raise the best cattle he could. After starting with just a few Angus cows, he and his four sons increased the herd to nearly 100 producing females.

In the beginning, Harvey purchased cattle from various farms and auctions, which included private treaty sales, farm production auctions and the Michigan Futurity Sale. In 1972, he bought a cow at Arrowhead Angus Farm’s first production sale for \$600.

Harvey entered bulls in the early Indiana Beef Evaluation Program (IBEP) ran by Purdue University. Underwood Angus Farms has had a bull in nearly every test since then. His bulls were very successful at this test station. Underwood Angus Farms won the High-Performance Indexing Individual and Get-of-Sire numerous times and received the Carcass Merit Award.

The farm was very successful showing their Angus steers and heifers in the 1970s and ’80s and then again in the early 2000s. They received Champion Angus steer and heifer many times at the Wabash County Fair.

“My grandfather Harvey’s favorite bull was Longacres Dominique T T 607,” says Neil Underwood, current



Underwood Angus Farms was established in 1965 in North Manchester, Ind.

farm owner. “He bought the bull at the IBEP Sale and then won many tests with his sire progeny. This bull was so instrumental to the success of Underwood Angus Farms and was such a farm favorite that even after my grandfather passed away, Dominique got to live out his days on the farm and then was buried under his favorite shade tree.”

After Harvey’s passing, his son Mark, along with his two sons Neil and Austin took over management of the herd. At that time, the herd was reduced in size and now consists of approximately 70 cows, while still maintaining the goal to produce high-quality seedstock focusing on calving ease, growth and docility. **AJ**