

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



Naomi Faith (White) Johnson died June 6, at home in Edgerton, Mo.

She was born Oct. 18, 1931, to James Dee and Blanche (Reynolds) White on the farm near Platte City, Mo.

Naomi graduated from Camden Point High School in 1949 as valedictorian of her class consisting of six girls. She attended Platte Gard Business School in Saint Joseph, Mo., graduating with a secretarial administrative assistant certificate.

June 22, 1951, she was united in marriage to Kenneth Atkins “Buddy” Johnson at the Baptist Church in Camden Point, Mo. To this union were born Jerry, William and Joy. They raised their family near Edgerton on the family farm. Kenneth passed away July 26, 1996.

Naomi worked for North Platte Elementary School, Kroger Grocery Company, American Angus Association, American Angus Hall of Fame, and Healthy Families of Mid-America. She spent her last five years at the Smithville Christian Church, where she retired in November 2011.

She was a member of Edgerton United Methodist Church, where she served as the secretary, treasurer and choir director until the church closed. She served on the Missouri University Extension Council (4-H) and the board of WWB Villas Retirement Center, and was a

member of the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority.

Naomi is survived by her children, Jerry, Bill (LeeAnn) and Joy (Tom); two granddaughters; one great-grandson; sister, Deanna; several nieces and nephews; other relatives; and many friends.



Evelyn Hope Gettys Edmunds, 94, died June 27 at Atrium Health, Kings Mountain, N.C.

A native of Clover, S.C., Evelyn was born Nov. 13, 1928, to the late Walter Lee Gettys and Effie Mae McCarter Gettys.

Evelyn was a 1946 graduate of Clover High School and attended Limestone College. Evelyn was active in all phases of agriculture, raising Angus cattle and turkeys. She belonged to numerous agricultural organizations and was a member of Clover Presbyterian Church. Evelyn was awarded the Order of the Palmetto from South Carolina Governor, Nikki Haley.

Survivors include her children, Lynn, Leigh (Kelly), Allen (Tod), Johnna, Lane (Doug) and Wesley (Mary); ten grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.



Earl Joseph McKarns, 90, of Kensington, Ohio, left to farm the fields of heaven July

3. Earl was born to Donald and Verona McKarns Feb. 12, 1933.

He was an active member of St. John’s Catholic Church. After graduating from Salineville High School, Earl served in the United States Navy as a welder during the Korean War until he returned home to do what he loved: farming.

Earl leaves behind his wife of 65 years, Nedra; children, Laura (Dan) and Dan; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; brothers, Bill (Pauline) and Jim; sister-in-law, Ruby; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Earl spent his life working in his fields, raising dairy and beef cattle, and managing his farm. He was passionate about helping others create successful farms through rotational grazing and traveled the world teaching others the art of farming.

He served as president of the Ohio Cattlemen’s Association and was one of the founding members and first president of the Ohio Forage and Grassland Council. He was awarded with Seedstock Producer of the Year, OCA’s Industry Excellence Award and Bob Evans Leadership Award. Earl was involved with the Ohio Beef Council and Carroll County Soil and Water Conservation.

He was also a member of Volunteer Overseas Cooperative Assistance, where he volunteered on farms in Slovakia and Zimbabwe. He hosted thousands of visitors at his farm

during dozens of field days and workshop programs. Additionally, he was a member of the Ohio Farm Bureau, Carroll County Farm Bureau, American Angus Association and Carroll County Cattlemen's Association.



Tom Wells died July 6, at his home in Hamilton, Texas, after a two-year battle with pancreatic cancer.

Wells was born in Enid, Okla., to parents Thomas "Dale" Wells and Gertrude Wiebe Wells. He is survived by wife, Merridee; sons Zach (Shelby) and Wade (Emilee); two grandchildren; sisters, Linda (Paul) and Roslynn (Greg); and nephew, Jake (Rebekah) and his children.

Wells, a respected Angus breeder, was recognized by both the American Angus Association and the American Chianina Association as Herdsman of the Year by each association.

He judged cattle shows in numerous states, as well as the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo (FWSSR) Commercial Heifer Sale, and served several years on the FWSSR Ethical Fitting Committee during the Steer Show.

Wells served as an advisor for the Texas Junior Angus Association and on the board of directors for the Texas Angus Association. He was active in Hamilton County 4-H and FFA programs, advising youth and volunteering for various youth activities. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Hamilton.



Gordon "Gordie" Candler Keys, 89, died at his home in Middleburg, Va., July 8, surrounded by his family.

He was born Aug. 8, 1933, in Laytonsville, Md., to Henrietta Howard Riggs and the late Gordon Chandler Keys. Henrietta later remarried to Robert Hallowell Chinchester, Olney, Md.

Gordie graduated from Sherwood High School in Sandy Spring in 1951 and was drafted into the U.S. Army. He was stationed for two years at Fort Rucker, Ala.

Following his service, Gordie attended the University of Maryland College Park, where he joined Alpha Tau Omega fraternity and earned a degree in agriculture. While at Maryland, he met Janice Oxley. They married in 1959 and made their home in Olney, where they raised their four children, Chandler, Chrissy, Susan and Anne. With his stepfather, Gordie farmed their ancestral home, Oatland. Gordie took over the management of the farm in 1969 and raised row crops, sod, hay, hogs, registered Angus cattle and thoroughbred horses.

After he and Janice later divorced, Gordie relocated to Middleburg with his cows and horses. He remarried Mary Kay "Robin" Garwood Sterling in 1998. Together, they operated Beaver Dam Farm for 25 years.

Gordie was recognized for his contributions to the Angus industry. He was a foxhunter, rode in the Redland Hunt and was one of the founding members of the Goshen Hunt. Additionally, Gordie bred and owned many winning racehorses.

Gordie was a founding member of the Olney Civic Society and the Agricultural Farm Park, chairman of the Agricultural Committee for Montgomery County, and member of the Montgomery Farms Club and the Maryland Beef Producers Association. He was a long-standing member of the Trinity Church, Upperville, Va., and the Middleburg Tennis Club. Robin and Gordie

established the Keys Scholarship Fund at the American Angus Association.

Gordie is survived by wife, Robin; children, Chandler (Chelsie), Mary (Keith), Susan (Eddie) and Anne (Richard); stepson, David; former spouse, Janice; eight grandchildren; two nephews and two nieces.

In Recognition Historic Herd

Robert "Bobby" E. Ward founded Ward's Angus Farm in Palmersville, Tenn., in 1962. Fifty years later, Angus cattle still dot its landscape, earning the farm the designation of a Historic Herd.

Ward had cattle growing up and chose the Angus breed after noticing they brought more money, were more economical to raise and had a calmer demeanor than other breeds.

His first purchase was a set of heifers purchased from his uncle in Ashland City, Tenn., for \$125.

Unfortunately, Bang's Disease cleared out Ward's first herd. He was able to reestablish the herd in 1979.

Ward still manages his herd, and currently has 85-90 cows, 85-90 calves and five bulls.

The American Angus Association's Historic Angus Herd Award recognizes Angus breeders and immediate families who have been in continuous production of registered Angus cattle for 50 years or more.

Smith wins BIF Ambassador Award

The Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) presented Troy Smith the BIF Ambassador Award July 4.

This award is presented annually by BIF to a team or member of the media for his or her efforts in spreading the BIF message and its principles to a larger audience.

Continued on page 246

Smith, Sargent, Neb., has an enthusiastic passion for the beef industry and has dedicated his career to fostering beef improvement through his role as a freelance writer.

Since 1989 his byline could be found in numerous publications including the *Angus Journal*, *Angus Beef Bulletin*, *Hereford World*, *Western Horseman*, *Working Ranch*, *Draft*

Horse Journal, *Gulf Coast Cattleman*, *Cattle Business Weekly*, *Tri-State Livestock News*, *Record Stockman*, *Western Livestock Reporter* and *Western Livestock Journal*. He has also served as a contract writer for the Nebraska Beef Council and Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition.

He has a long history attending and writing about BIF and the BIF

Symposium. He attended his first BIF in Dickinson, N.D., in 1997. When the Angus team started the BIF Conference website and providing real-time coverage of the symposium, Smith was part of the first team who attended and covered the event in 2002. He has helped cover each symposium hosted since then, either in person or remotely.

All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity Roll of Victory Show, June 11, Louisville, Ky.

Photos by Next Level Images, courtesy of American Angus Association



Tyler Cates and Cortney Hill-Dukehart Cates, Modoc, Ind., won manager of the year. Pictured (from left) are Tom Burke, show chairman; Kelsey Theis, Miss American Angus; Tyler and Piper Cates; Cortney Hill-Dukehart Cates; Paul Hill, vice show chairman; Anne Patton Schubert, executive show committee; and Jamie Smith Nicholson, show treasurer.



Holly Marsh, Earlville, Ill., received the Robert L. Asher Memorial Outstanding Herdsman Award. Pictured (from left) are Tom Burke, Kelsey Theis, Paul Hill, Marsh and Anne Patton Schubert. Paul Hill, Bidwell, Ohio, won the Bill Wilson



Gordon and Anne Patton Schubert, Taylorsville, Ky., won the J.B. McCorkle Challenge.



Gary Dameron, Lexington, Ill., won pioneer breeder. Pictured (from left) are Tom Burke, Kelsey Theis, Dameron, Paul Hill, Anne Patton Schubert and Jamie Smith Nicholson.



SCC SCH 24 Karat 838 won the Ed Fowler Memorial Premier Sire. Stertzbach Cattle Co., Louisville, Ohio; Tim Schaeffer Show Cattle, Hagerstown, Ind.; and Ryan and Bridgette Van Zee, Sioux Center, Iowa, own the winning bull. Pictured (from left) are Paul Hill, presenting; Bruce Stertzbach, recipient; and Kelsey Theis.



Memorial Master Breeder of the Year award. Pictured (from left) are Tom Burke, Kelsey Theis, Priscilla Wilson, Hill, Anne Patton Schubert and Jamie Smith Nicholson.



Houston Ferree (center), Sullivan, Ind., won premier exhibitor. Also pictured presenting are Paul Hill (left) and Kelsey Theis.



Evan Henning, Clinton, Wis., won premier breeder. Pictured (from left) are Danny and Courtney Zehr and Kelsey Theis.