

FOUNDATION IN FOCUS

by Jaclyn Upperman
Angus Foundation executive director



Called to action

The most difficult thing is the decision to act. The rest is merely tenacity. — Amelia Earhart

Fall sale season is in full swing, and I had the distinct pleasure of attending the Spruce Mountain Ranch Female Sale in August. Tom and Lois Ames, Chuck Brost and their families should be very proud of their cattle and the successful sale.

What was more impressive to me, however, was the choice to showcase the Mount Saint Vincent's Home for Children and raise funds for the charity during their presale dinner. The Home is a premier provider of mental health treatment, foster care services, individual education and trauma care — all focused on children and their families. I admire the Ames family's desire to help those in need and rally others behind their endeared cause.

Their speaker, Commander Mark Nutsch, was a green beret commander portrayed in the movie *12 Strong* and the *New York Times* bestseller book, *Horse Soldiers*. He gave an inspirational message at the sale about being part of a team and making a difference during your life, citing his own experiences. The one quote that was shared during the message hit home for me.

"The most difficult thing is the decision to act. The rest is merely tenacity." — Amelia Earhart

This quote can apply to all of us. At some point in our life, we are asked to act. It may be a big change or a small task. Yet making that decision and taking the first step is the biggest hurdle. Once we make the decision, we all want to know we did the "right" thing.

Amelia Earhart made the decision to fly and not to be told how far she could go. Mark Nutsch made the decision to take his 12 teammates into Afghanistan as the first American soldiers after the 9/11 terrorist attack, with little to no intelligence. The Ames family showcased a passion of theirs and asked others to join them.


Our mission, our passion

I believe wholeheartedly in the Angus Foundation's mission of advancing youth, education and research. It's a mission that touches each one of our passions for the Angus breed, and why we continue to be involved with the Angus membership.

A child or grandchild showing their heifer at the county fair, a set of cows you want to see make genetic improvements over the next few years, or growing your knowledge by attending conferences regarding the

beef industry — the mission is our passion.

The 2023 Annual Fund Drive will be focused on celebrating 150 years since the first Angus bulls came to America. The campaign is to ask every member to give \$150 to the Angus Fund, whether that be a one-time gift or multiple gifts totaling \$150 throughout the year.

George Grant made the decision to act 150 years ago when he brought Angus bulls to America from across the ocean. The next decision is yours. Will you act to make sure the Angus breed's legacy is strong for another 150 years? 

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