

# 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



**Ronnie K. Johnson**, 73, of Beebe, Ark., passed away on May 24.

He was born to Leonard and

Ruby Johnson on Aug. 23, 1946, in Memphis, Tenn., and was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth, and brother Steve. He is survived by son, Mark; stepsons, Mike and Kevin; stepdaughter Dinah; four granddaughters; two brothers, Jerry and Richard; and many friends.

Ronnie was a skilled and knowledgeable cattleman. His many customers relied on his expertise and guidance in nutrition, breeding, clipping and show preparation, sale consulting, and, his specialty, hoof trimming.

His detailed business calendar listed his commitments to customers — more than 200 days per year — and numerous annual cattle sales, the same ones he had worked for decades. There was never a question if Ronnie would be available to work, only a discussion of the number of days he could fit into his busy schedule.

Ronnie traveled to customers’ farms for clipping, artificial insemination (AI) breeding and hoof trimming, and he also exhibited cattle with customers and friends at livestock expositions. While his

home base was his place in central Arkansas, he regularly visited more cattle operations across the United States than most people ever see. Often staying in customers’ homes, Ronnie became a trusted advisor who grew into a cherished family friend.

Ronnie was quick-witted, cordial and considerate to everyone whose path crossed his. He made friends wherever he traveled and often commented while he may not know everyone, he probably knows someone else who knows them.

He was a kind and thoughtful mentor who took seriously his commitment to cattle producers, young and old, who sought his counsel on building and maintaining their ranching businesses. The wisdom of beef cattle production, practical working skills and cow sense Ronnie Johnson cultivated over a lifetime will be challenging to replace in the lives of countless cattle breeders who valued his proficiency and experience in so many ways.



**Kenneth George Creese, Jr.**, 67, of Rocky Comfort, Mo., passed away on June 1 at his residence.

He was born on July 8, 1952, in Butler, Penn., to the late Kenneth and Katherine Creese. He married Cindy Lou Niehaus in 2016 in Branson, Mo. Ken is survived by his wife,

Cindy; two brothers, David and wife Heidi, and Richard and wife, Gale; two sisters, Margie and Linda; along with his stepchildren, grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Ken was an experienced and accomplished cow-calf manager educated at Pennsylvania State University. Throughout his career, he provided cattle knowledge and specialized skills to ranches all over the United States and Canada. Most recently, he worked full-time for Jac’s Ranch, an Angus seedstock operation in Bentonville, Ark.

For many years, Ken was a dependable team member and seasoned leader of cattle sale crews. He directed the efforts of talented individuals who would come together for weeks or months to prepare cattle for auction.

Ken’s practical skills and reliability will be missed at Belle Point Ranch in Arkansas, La Grand Angus Ranch in South Dakota, Mid-Continent Farms and Laffin Ranch in Kansas, and numerous others. He also assisted breeders with exhibiting show cattle and promoting their herds at major livestock expositions.

Ken was cheerful, fun-loving and friendly to all who came his way. He had a good eye and sense for cattle, and was polite and professional in dealing with people. Ken was thorough, methodical and detail-oriented. He had extensive

knowledge and a passion for livestock that he was always willing to share.

**Robert (Bob) Eugene Adams**, 91, passed away peacefully at home on Aug. 30. He was born in Waterloo, Idaho, the youngest of two boys to Sidney Frank Adams and Nealie Marie Gordon.

Bob was the third generation to work on and develop the herd genetics of Adams Angus Farm. Through adoption of new technology and a long-term breeding plan for his cattle centered around data, expected progeny differences (EPDs) and phenotype, Bob and his wife, Juliette Cope Adams, were able to host the operation's first-annual bull sale.

The goals of the farm centered around Bob's personal desire to breed bulls capable of meeting the needs of all cattlemen — even the most progressive. Bob ensured all bulls sold under the Adams' name passed their breeding soundness exam (BSE). He was also proud to offer free delivery to customers.

Bob was preceded in death by his loving wife, his brother Sidney and his parents.

He is survived by three children: Kathryn (Bob), Marie (Steve), Rob (Connie), five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



**Alice Faye Curtin**, 84, of Taylorville, passed away Sept. 1 at Life's Journey Senior Living in Taylorville, Ill.

She was born on March 15, 1936, in Blue Mound, the daughter of Charles and Mary Gladys Carpenter. Alice lived in Stonington and graduated from Stonington High School in 1954. She attended the University of

Illinois and married John Curtin on Feb. 9, 1957.

Alice was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church and the Altar & Rosary Society, Christian County Home Extension, Illinois Angus Auxiliary, and Saint Vincent Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. Alice was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She provided hugs, kisses, and great food and cookies.

Alice worked alongside John operating their family farm and enjoyed gardening and traveling.

She is survived by her husband, John; children, Fred, Chuck, Beth, Mary, Cathy and Jim; 25 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren; Aunt Darlene; brothers-in-law Larry and Paul; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; brother Ben; and sister Peggy.



**Evan Slack**, 86, passed away Sept. 19. His radio career spanned 68 years including, most recently, as owner

of the Evan Slack Network based in Denver, Colo. During that time, he broadcast from 45 states, four Canadian provinces and Australia.

Evan was a leader in the National Association of Farm Broadcasting (NAFB) and served as president in 1987. He was inducted into the NAFB Hall of Fame in 2009 and won numerous other awards from various industry organizations.

Evan was born in Missouri and received a degree in agriculture with a minor in journalism from the University of Missouri. After that, he moved westward into the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, establishing farm and ranch departments at two

different radio stations. He eventually became a farm radio network pioneer, working to establish network programming specifically targeted for the farmers and ranchers of that region in the early 1970s.

After getting his pilot's license in 1967, Evan was able to cover the entire Western farm and ranch territory and quickly became a well-loved radio personality with the slogan "On the Air and In the Air."

He was early to adopt new technology, taking his network online in 2006 to distribute his programming to radio stations.

## In The News



Dean and Gloria (Pittman) Hurlbut celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Oct. 22. They

were married that day at the Savannah Christian Church, Savannah, Mo.

Both Dean and Gloria retired from the American Angus Association, Dean as director of activities and Gloria as supervisor of the Breed Improvement Department. Dean, who retired in July 2000, worked for the Association for 43 years. Gloria helped Angus members for 27 years, retiring in Fall 2004.

They have two daughters: Stacy and Dennis Jenkins of Saint Joseph; and Tracy and Ryan Hurlbutt, Olathe, Kan. They have three grandchildren: Kaitlyn Jenkins and Josh and Jesse Hurlbutt.

Cards can be sent to 3519 Emerald Lane, Country Club, MO 64506. 