



Movin' Forward

► by **Bryce Schumann**, CEO, American Angus Association

A brushstroke and a breed

Sometimes, those who leave the biggest impact come from places — and perspectives — that you least expect them to.

Frank Champion Murphy was one of those people.

Angus icon

With nothing more than a paintbrush and an easel, he defined the Angus breed for nearly 60 years. His paintings and drawings have adorned the halls of the American Angus Association — and those of Angus breeders across the country — for generations.

When Frank passed away in late June, all of us lost a friend, a colleague, and a member of our extended community whose life positively impacted thousands.

Frank had an eye for cattle, perhaps better than any other artist in the world. He learned about cattle anatomy when he worked for his family's ranch near Brownsville, Texas. There, he found plenty of thin cattle. He once commented that he could see their every rib, muscle and sinew — and it gave

his eye an inside perspective of the structure of cattle.

He combined his knowledge of livestock with an artistic passion. His vast body of work not only is an accurate depiction of cattle, places and people, but it is also aesthetically beautiful.

Frank made his living as a professional illustrator in Chicago. He participated in that great city's golden age of advertising. It was a highly competitive environment, one in which he thrived and enjoyed success. From 1951 to 1975, he illustrated popular American Angus Association national advertisements, about 45 in all.

Perhaps most notably, Murphy's 1973 painting of the first Angus bull imported from Scotland appeared on the 8¢ postage stamp to commemorate the 100th

anniversary of Angus in the U.S. It was just one of more than 80 Angus paintings and drawings that were reproduced as promotional prints and distributed to thousands around the world.

There's little doubt that Frank had the cow bug. He loved this business, and he loved the people in the Angus community.

We should be proud of that. Proud that he was our friend. And proud of Frank and the work he did. The contribution he made has enriched our lives, and will continue to do so for generations to come.

For those of you who never met Frank, you should know that he was gentle and kind, a man who unreservedly welcomed you into his home, who believed in his art and in Angus, and who dedicated his life to service and the betterment of mankind.

We will miss him greatly.

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