

# Honorary Angus Foundation

Dedicated philanthropists receive prestigious award.

by **Carrie Horsley**, Angus Foundation

In 1985, the National Junior Angus Board (NJAB) established the Honorary Angus Foundation to recognize and thank those who have shown incredible support for Angus youth. Seven Angus breeders were honored as the first inductees, and each year the NJAA honors up to three individuals.

To recognize their dedication, the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) inducted Ed and Wilma Minix, Black Witch Farms, Athens, Ga.; Gordon and Robin Keys, Beaver Dam Farm, Middleburg, Va.; and Thomas and Catherine Chambers, Chambers Angus, Ontario, Ore., into the Honorary Angus Foundation during the 2015 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Tulsa, Okla.

## Ed and Wilma Minix

Wilma and late husband Ed Minix of Black Witch Farms, Athens, Ga., built a successful registered-Angus operation from the ground up. With no prior experience in the Angus business, they learned the ropes together and made a network of friends in the Angus community.

"The personification of southern hospitality, Ed and Wilma always made you feel welcome, and genuinely appreciated you taking the time to visit their farm and view their herd," said David Gazda, American Angus Association regional manager. "No

one is more deserving of such recognition than this gracious and caring couple, Ed and Wilma Minix."

In honor of Ed, Wilma has been a loyal contributor, beginning with the purchase of the first granite planter in the *Building an Angus Legacy* project for \$7,500. Now, when arriving at the American Angus Association headquarters in Saint Joseph, Mo., the Black Witch Farm logo is among the first to be seen etched in granite near the building's entryway.

In 2014, Wilma established the Ed and Wilma Minix/Black Witch Farm Angus Youth Scholarship and Activities Endowment Fund, which was first awarded in 2014. Additionally, Wilma has named the Angus Foundation as one of three charitable beneficiaries in her estate plans.

"Though the Black Witch program will be remembered for its high-quality Angus cattle, what many will always fondly remember was the first time they met its owners and the lifetime friendship that followed with this personable couple," Gazda said.

Wilma Minix, unable to attend the 2015 NJAS, was honored with the Honorary Angus Foundation award during the NJAA's recent Raising the Bar Conference hosted April 10 in Athens, Ga. The NJAB and junior members were present for the announcement and recognition of her award. Steve Pass, a family friend, was present at the 2015 NJAS to represent Ed and Wilma.

## Gordon and Robin Keys

Both lifelong Angus breeders, Gordon and Robin Keys of Beaver Dam Farm, Middleburg, Va., are leaving a lasting impression on Angus youth in their home states of Maryland and Virginia, respectively. In 2015, the family established two scholarship endowment funds through the Angus Foundation to benefit junior members for many years to come.

"It has truly been an honor to get acquainted with Gordon and Robin," said Milford Jenkins, Angus Foundation president. "I remember when Gordon mentioned he and his wife would like to make a major gift to the Angus Foundation. Through many conversations, they are leaving their legacy within the Angus breed and making a difference in the lives of Angus youth."



► Robin and Gordon Keys established two scholarship endowment funds to benefit juniors from their respective home states, Virginia and Maryland.

Prior to establishing the scholarship funds, the couple had been dedicated donors to the Angus Foundation. Recently, they felt the need to have a more personal impact on junior Angus members in their home states and help support them in their dreams of higher education.

Gordon's involvement with Angus cattle dates back to his childhood, and he provided the same opportunities to his children



► With no children of their own, in 1996 the Chambers couple chose the Angus Foundation as the sole charitable beneficiary of their estate.



► Wilma Minix, unable to attend the 2015 NJAS, receives the Honorary Angus Foundation award from Tylee Jo Williams, 2014-2015 communications director, during the NJAA's recent Raising the Bar Conference in Athens, Ga.

## Honorary Angus Foundation members

- 1985 — Lyle Haring, Iowa; Robert Hicks\*, Kentucky; George Becker, North Dakota; Robert Snyder, Arkansas; Ed Stout\*, Missouri; Frank Richards\*, Missouri; and Percy & Margaret Upton, Nebraska
- 1986 — Bob Herriott, Illinois; Haley Jamison, Tennessee; Robert Miller, Minnesota
- 1987 — Dave McMahon, Arkansas; Paul & Vicki St. Blanc, Louisiana; Dean Hurlbut, Missouri
- 1988 — Granada Corp., Texas; Harding & Harding Insurance, Illinois
- 1989 — Floyd Dievert\*, Kentucky; Evelyn Edmunds, South Carolina
- 1990 — Billy Yarbrough, California; Rachel Breck, Connecticut
- 1991 — Goshen Angus, Kentucky; Waymon & Stella Ashley, Texas
- 1992 — Bloom Angus, Indiana (Don & Carol Bloom); Tumble T Bar Ranch, South Carolina (Ted & Windy Bartee)
- 1993 — Maurice Armstrong, Tennessee
- 1994 — John Barton, Missouri; Randy Lathrop, Illinois
- 1995 — Price Harrison, Tennessee
- 1996 — Cecil & Sandra McCurry, Kansas; Joe B. & Sandra Davis, Kentucky; Philip Reid, Virginia
- 1997 — Wayne "Doc" Smith, Missouri; Bob & Gloria Thomas, Oregon; Myron Fuerst, New York
- 1998 — Bob & Virginia Weaver, Illinois; J.V. & Helen Heyser, Texas; Nettie Eitel\*, Missouri
- 1999 — Charles "Bud" & Pam Smith, Kentucky; Anne Patton Schubert, Kentucky; Vance & Connie Uden, Nebraska
- 2000 — Richard Spader, Missouri; Jim Baldrige\*, Nebraska; Leon & Cynthia Heron, Tennessee
- 2001 — Patrick Goggins, Montana; Don Good, Kansas; Glen & Pat Grote, Oklahoma
- 2002 — Jim Bessler, Illinois; Ronald Meyer, Nebraska; Steve & Sandy Trosper, Missouri
- 2003 — Andy & Mary McCurry, Kansas; William Powell, Maryland; Whitestone Farm, Virginia
- 2004 — Bob Laflin\*, Kansas; Chuck Grove, Virginia; James Fisher, Missouri
- 2005 — Dick & Diane Beck, Montana; George & June Crenshaw, Kansas; Fred & Betty Johnson, Ohio
- 2006 — Bob & Nedra Funk, Oklahoma; Frank Murphy, Illinois; Bill & Barbara Rishel, Nebraska
- 2007 — Henry & Nan Gardiner, Kansas; Julie McMahon French, Michigan; Bob Norton, Missouri
- 2008 — Tammy Wallace, Missouri; Stan Thomas, Georgia; Shelia Stannard, Missouri; C.J. Brown, Illinois
- 2009 — John & Judy Crouch, New Mexico; Ron & Myki Simek, Wyoming
- 2010 — Greenacres Foundation, Ohio; Brad & Mindy Schnoor, California
- 2011 — Bob & Margaret Duprey, Pennsylvania; Camron Cooper, Montana; Curtis & Ann Long, Missouri
- 2012 — Jim & Sue Coleman, California; Howard & JoAnne Hillman, South Dakota; Blanford & Joan Pierce, Illinois
- 2013 — Tom & Lois Ames, Colorado; Col. Ray\* & Melva Sims, Missouri; Eddie & Connie Sydenstricker, Missouri
- 2014 — Charles W. & Judy Herbster, Nebraska; Murl & Lucian Richardson, Texas; and Bill & Betty Werner, Illinois
- 2015 — Thomas & Catherine Chambers\*, Oregon; Gordon & Robin Keys, Virginia; Ed\* & Wilma Minix, Georgia

\* Indicates posthumously inducted.

growing up. They participated in 4-H, showed Angus cattle and were involved in other activities throughout the agriculture industry — and they remain involved today.

### Thomas and Catherine Chambers

The late Thomas and Catherine Chambers of Chambers Angus, Ontario, Ore., were longtime Angus breeders passionate about the cattle and their Angus family.

Because of their dedication to the breed, it was always their intention to help others within the Angus industry. With no children of their own, in 1996 the couple chose the Angus Foundation as the sole charitable beneficiary of their estate — a generous gift to the future of Angus youth.

"Thomas and Catherine were very modest, unpretentious and quiet individuals who were always thinking of the well-being of others before their own," said Milford Jenkins, Angus Foundation president. "When visiting with the Chambers about Angus youth, their enthusiasm was evident when they smiled."

The legacy of Thomas and Catherine Chambers will live on through their endowment fund to support Angus youth activities. The first awards presented through the Chambers Angus Endowment Fund will be scholarships to attend the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conference. Selected award winners were named at the 2015 NJAS.

Thomas and Catherine were both Kansas City, Mo., natives. They married in Nevada and then made their way to eastern Oregon, where they established their registered-Angus herd. Through the experience they gained building their cattle operation, the couple was able to pass that knowledge along to others getting started in the beef business and the Angus breed.

Any member of the American Angus

Association is eligible to nominate individuals or organizations for the Honorary Angus Foundation. A complete list of members can be found online at [www.angusfoundation.org/fdn/ScholarshipsAwards/FdnHonorary.html](http://www.angusfoundation.org/fdn/ScholarshipsAwards/FdnHonorary.html).



**Editor's Note:** Carrie Horsley is the director of marketing and public relations for the Angus Foundation.