

Saddle & Sirloin Honors Tom Burke

Missouri Angus breeder, sale manager receives prestigious livestock honor during North American International Livestock Expo.

by Katy Holdener, American Angus Association

Tom Burke of Platte City, Mo., has been selected as the 2017 inductee into the Saddle & Sirloin Portrait Gallery, considered one of the highest honors in the livestock industry. The Saddle & Sirloin Gallery was established in 1903 and recognizes one individual each year for a lifetime of exceptional service to the livestock business, both nationally and internationally.

Burke, a fourth-generation cattleman, was raised on his family's registered Angus operation in southeastern Minnesota. His great-grandfather used the first registered Angus bulls in the late 1800s and early 1900s on the Burke farm, which was homesteaded more than 130 years ago.

Burke has spent more than 50 years of his life traveling the country as a sale manager for the American Angus Hall of Fame, which is also home to the world's largest collection of Angus memorabilia. Among his many accolades, *USA Today* named him "America's Most Traveled Person" in 1994. Burke also served on the American Angus Association Board of Directors from 2013 to 2016.

"I was born into an Angus family, and I am proud of it," Burke said. "My father was an Angus breeder, my grandfather was an Angus breeder and my great-great-grandfather raised commercial Angus cattle."

During his tenure with the



"Being inducted into the Saddle & Sirloin Club has been one of the highlights in my life," said Angus member and sale manager Tom Burke of Platte City, Mo. "It's like receiving the Heisman trophy of the cattle industry."

American Angus Hall of Fame, Burke has attended 10,000 Angus sales in 47 states, Canadian provinces and the Caribbean. Due to his commitment and dedication to the promotion of the Angus breed, Burke received the Promoter of the Year Award from the American Angus Association for 20 consecutive years.


Burke is a true Angus supporter. He has never missed a North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE), hosted each November in Louisville, Ky., in its near 45-year history. Nor has he missed a National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), where he served as the showmanship announcer from 1967 to 1973. Currently, Burke manages a herd of 200 registered Angus cattle and a flock of 40 Suffolk sheep.

The Saddle & Sirloin Club honored Burke and his many industry contributions during

a special program and portrait unveiling Nov. 12 in conjunction with the NAILE at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center in Louisville, Ky.

"Being inducted into the Saddle & Sirloin Club has been one of the highlights in my life," Burke said. "It's like receiving the Heisman trophy of the cattle industry. It thrills me to no end to be inducted."

With funds raised by the nominating committee, Burke has established the Tom Burke Young Angus Achievement Awards Endowment Fund with the Angus Foundation at 3201 Frederick Ave., Saint Joseph, MO 64506. The fund will support two Tom Burke Young Angus Achievement Awards of \$1,250 awarded annually at the NJAS to one boy and one girl 8-13 years of age. The award winners will be selected by a point system cumulating from their involvement in the National Junior Angus Association's officially sanctioned, competitive showing and contests hosted at the NJAS.

Contact Angus Foundation President Milford Jenkins at 816-383-5163 to learn more about the Tom Burke Young Angus Achievement Awards Endowment Fund. 

Editor's Note: Katy Holdener is the digital content manager for the American Angus Association.