



## Mary McFarland

The American Hereford Association (AHA) records department includes a talented group of ladies who have extensive experience in recordkeeping. Several ladies have been perfecting the art of data entry since high school and continue to work diligently to efficiently serve AHA members.

One of those ladies is Mary McFarland. A Salt Lake City native, Mary joined the U.S. Army in 1968, where she began her career in data entry. She operated a computer that received encrypted messages and was responsible for sending encrypted messages to Army stations all over the world.

Mary says traveling with the Army allowed her to experience cities and cultures she otherwise wouldn't have. She was stationed in the U.S. in locations such as Atlanta and Chicago as well as overseas in Germany. While in Germany, Mary met Mike McFarland, who was also in the Army. The two married in 1973 after finishing their Army careers. They relocated to Mike's hometown, Kansas City, Mo.

After a three-and-a-half year tour in the Army, Mary provided data entry services for Lee Jeans Co., the Kansas City School District Board of Education and a stockbroker

before joining the American Polled Hereford Association (APHA) staff in 1984. She was responsible for data entry and for inputting and mailing pedigrees to producers.

Currently Mary prints completed work, answers phone calls, and enters daily work and work-up errors from the previous day. She also helps with month-end statements, enters herd inventory data twice a year and enters data for Dams of Distinction records once a year.

She says through the years there has been a lot of progress in how data entry is organized, making the work much faster and easier in most cases. Mary enjoys interacting with the AHA membership, commenting that the members are nice to work for and very friendly.

Mary's hobbies include sewing, gardening, rafting and spending time with her two children and two granddaughters. **HW**