

Remembering a Hereford Youth Supporter

Luke 12:48 says, "To whom much is given, much will be required." To Donna Vanier, Brookville, Kan., this was much more than biblical council — it was a way of life.

Donna, 85, passed away May 23, 2020. She possessed an outlook on life which focused on making a difference in the lives of her family and her community. Donna and the Vanier family aimed to support the growth of the junior members involved in raising Hereford cattle. Through the Hereford Youth Foundation of America's (HYFA) and the Vanier Family scholarships, Donna's vision lives on and her legacy continues to make a difference in the lives of countless juniors, helping them reach their full potential.

She was born in Salina, Kan., on Oct. 24, 1934, to Willis and Helen Lindsey. Donna lived most of her adult life with her husband, John (Jack), on the CK Ranch outside Brookville. As matriarch of a ranch family, her commitment to their way of life did not stop at the fence line.

Leaving her mark

Donna is known as someone who worked harder at CK Ranch than anyone. She was active in all aspects of the cattle business including producing the ranch's annual production sale catalogs, hosting countless ranch tours, tracking cattle inventories and making employees and their families feel valued and



Donna Vanier

appreciated. Her dedication and support of her family and her family's work was motivated by care and kindness.

As one of the founders of the American Hereford Association Auxiliary, Donna sought to ensure leadership in the next generations of agriculture by offering scholarships through HYFA and the Kansas 4-H Foundation.

Donna served as the driving force behind the creation of the Donna L. Vanier Children's Center, which opened in 2012. She also served many years as treasurer of the Christy Cathedral Episcopal Church and the Episcopal Diocese of Western Kansas, was a founding board member of the Greater Salina Community Foundation, served as chair of the governing

boards of Salina Regional Health Foundation, the Rolling Hills Museum and St. John's Military School and was a contributing member of countless other local boards and organizations.

At Kansas State University (K-State), Donna held leadership roles on the K-State Foundation board of directors and the Ahearn Scholarship board and was chair of the Beach Museum of Art board of visitors. She earned the K-State Medal of Excellence, which recognizes those who have advanced K-State through exceptional service, leadership and philanthropic contributions.

She is remembered as one who never forgot a birthday, an anniversary or any other significant milestone. Donna was the truest of friends and a source of wisdom and kindness. Her many friends from the Salina area, the cattle industry and the K-State family brought her immense joy.

Donna is survived by her husband of 65 years, Jack; daughters, Mary Vanier and Marty Vanier; Marty's stepchildren, Katie, Kirsten and Kathy; son, John K. Vanier II and his daughters, Lauren and Sarah; John's wife, Kim, Kim's children, Pallie, Landon, Jess, Ty, Jake and Norah. **HW**

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