Hereford Women

Do It Like Dolly

by **Bellana Putz**

This fall, we lost Dolly Parton, an American icon whose influence stretched far beyond stages, screens and radio waves. What she gave the world wasn't just music or entertainment; it was a master class in how to live with purpose, humor, grit and generosity. Dolly was iconic, philanthropic, talented, humble and wickedly witty. She built a brand before our eyes — one rooted in authenticity and wrapped in rhinestones. She was class, plain and simple. And in her own unforgettable way, she reminded us, "It costs a lot of money to look this cheap."

National HEREFORD WOMEN

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We've had more rain than we need in my backyard lately, and I've caught myself wishing I could send it to the southern and western states that need it far more. But Dolly had a way of grounding us in perspective: "If you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain." That's the kind of relentless optimism she carried — not ignoring hardship but always insisting on hope. We are a community of relentless people too, but even the strongest among us needs a check-in, a nudge or a reminder that someone sees our effort. Be that person. Be relentless in kindness.

Giving gracefully

The National Hereford Women's Board is made up of compassionate, service-minded women who dedicate themselves, not only to the Hereford breed, but also to their communities. The 2025-2026 board represents folks from Texas, Ohio, Maryland, Iowa, California, Wisconsin, Nebraska and Georgia, bringing together a diverse group of leaders united by a shared passion for serving others.

Their generous hearts are a true gift to both the Hereford community and their hometowns. Like Dolly, they lead with kindness, give selflessly and lift-up those around them. Each woman brings unique talents and perspectives to the board while balancing busy lives that include careers, grandchildren, farms and ranches, church involvement, harvest activities and cheering on kids and grandchildren in sports. That list only begins to capture all that they do.

So, let's take a page from Dolly — be relentless in our Hereford community. Treat each other like champions. Look for ways to give, whether it's from your pocketbook or your time. Offer encouragement freely. Show up for people. Build others up. We will only grow stronger by serving each other, by choosing generosity and by remembering that leadership is not a title but a daily practice.

Dolly taught us that joy is an act of courage; kindness is a form of strength and giving is the greatest legacy. The National Hereford Women show us what that looks like in real time, in real barns, with real people.

As we move forward, let's carry their lessons with us.

Be relentless. Be generous. Be hopeful. Do it like Dolly. **HW**

To join and to learn more about the NHW, visit *HerefordWomen.com* or email nationalherefordwomen@gmail.com.