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Board Commentary

by Steve Andras, RAAA President

Bidding Farewell to a Breed Giant

"Today, a seed stock breeder without a sense of dedication and with a limited interest in beef improvement, whose interest is chiefly in making a profit, is not likely to prevail long enough to establish a reputation as a topflight seed stock producer. His impact, if any, will be as a multiplier of acquired blood lines, some of which may be popular during the life of his program. This entrepreneurial type will tend to return to where the profit opportunities appear more certain, more immediate and fit nearly into his comfort zone."

The above quotation, fell from the no-nonsense pen of George Chiga. Mr. Chiga, who hardly needs introduction in our great breed, passed away this past year at the age of 94, at his home in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

As one of the founders of this great breed, George Chiga is esteemed as a legend among those who knew him well and those who have learned from him. A straight shooter, his opinions were not kept hidden, and one would do well to examine his philosophies regarding breeding and breed direction. No doubt, George Chiga was a principled man, and we should count ourselves fortunate to stand on the shoulders of such a great leader in the industry.

He must have taken a deep, gratifying sigh to see the dynamic accumulation and momentum of this snowball that he and a handful of other forward-thinkers packed in 1954, rolling at full speed, with full industry acceptance-breaking into the top five breeds in America! To read about the many challenges and hurdles that our founders had to sweat through, what a wonderful, gratifying way for Mr. Chiga to end his life-watching this "baby" grow to be the success that it has become.

George Chiga left great footprints on this breed that will likely go unfilled in our age. We have lost a giant in our breed, but we will remain steadfast in the mission he fought for and we will commit ourselves to be even more compelled to promote this great breed.

I'll close with a word of encouragement from this great visionary:

"We salute you present Red Angus breeders, urge you onward and wish you every success the future has to offer producers that service the industry superior seed stock it needs. You have embraced the formula for success and deserve the best it has to offer. *Carry on...Be the Best!*"

George Chiga, 1913- 2007

-Steve