

TLBAA SPECIAL AWARDS

IT'S TIME TO VOTE!

The TLBAA special awards will be presented Friday, January 17, 2025 as a part of Texas Longhorn Weekend. Nominators provided background information on each nominee. All active TLBAA members in good standing are encouraged to vote for one fellow breeder in each of the categories for the special honors. Votes can be emailed to awards@tlbaa.org. If unable to email you may fax to the TLBAA office, and it will be forwarded to the awards committee.

Deadline for votes: December 20th, 2023, 5pm CST, no late ballots will be accepted. Only the official ballot with member name and TLBAA # included will be accepted.

Dave Evans Breeder of the Year Award



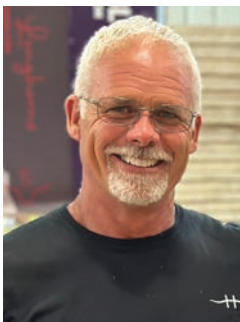
**Hudson Longhorns
Corydon, Indiana**

Hudson Longhorns have been in the longhorn world since 2003. During that period Bill and Elizabeth have purchased, marketed, promoted, hosted sales and raised the value of longhorns.

With great foundation cattle Hudson's started concentrating on building better more complete animals from within. They have been fortunate to have high selling cattle in 2022, 2023, and 2024. The top six scoring females in the 2023 Horn Showcase were Hudson bred. Some of the top bulls of the industry carry the HL brand.

The best part though, is the willingness of Hudson Longhorns to mentor, coach, share and to guide so many others. It's inspiring.

Truly a testament to their mindset, to make these cattle better throughout the industry and generationally. ★



**Mark Hubbell
Hastings, Michigan**

This gentleman has been an amazing mentor and man of knowledge to many in the industry. There are breeders that have become successful because of Mark's tireless work to produce the perfect longhorn.

Mark lives, eats and breathes longhorns. He wants to go look at cattle everywhere he goes. He respects the heritage of the breed, and will always stop and talk to new breeders about their cattle and give advice when asked, Mark Hubbell is the most deserving of this award of any breeder we have met to date. ★



**Justin Rombeck
Axtell, Kansas**

Justin Rombeck has been a driving force within the industry from the time he was a freshman in high school. What started as a FFA Breeding Program has evolved into a program that is running over 100 head of registered longhorns for him and his family. They have

raised futurity champions, received numerous HSC trophies, been Superior Award winners and more, Beyond his personal accomplishments, he has forever shaped the industry through his Longhorn Opportunities consultation business. He started the Legends Sale and Futurities with his wife Amanda, as another avenue that showcases top end producing animals and the genetics those animals have to offer.

In short, he is a teacher that has the passion for making this breed better for all involved. ★

Elmer Parker Lifetime Achievement Award



**John T. & Betty Baker
Liberty Hill, Texas**

With over 50 years of involvement and prominence in the Texas Longhorn breed, it is likely there is no breeder, couple, or ranch that has done more for the Texas Longhorn breed and the TLBAA than John T & Betty Baker of Sunrise Ranch. From being an integral

part of forming the TLBT, over a decade plus of TLBAA Board service, including serving as President, to 20 years of Youth camps, judging, and education, the imprint the Bakers have left on the breed is both vast and deep. Mr. Baker has never met a stranger, and is known for his genuine care for everyone he comes in contact. Mrs. Baker is always ready for keen advice, and is known for her knack to help young people develop. Her involvement leading Gold Merit still fondly talked about. All of this would be enough to warrant them winning this award, but to leave

out the impact they have made by being stewards, and advocates for the breed that have come with their breeding and guiding multiple University of Texas Bevo mascots is unparalleled. They are big picture thinkers, that put in the work, and love the breed..★



**John & Christy Randolph
Smithville, Texas**

John and Christy Randolph – members of the TLBAA since 1992 they have become a well-known name among the Texas Longhorn membership. With a huge list of accomplishments from showing, sponsoring, creating events to breeding outstanding animals, we all know

and love these two. They have dedicated a lifetime to promoting the Texas Longhorn no doubt about it! They have an undying love for the breed. Tremendous efforts in all the youth programs within the Longhorn world. Always ready to offer help as well their knowledge. So much knowledge of breeding genetics, color, conformation, structure and more! These two deserve this recognition for the Elmer Parker Lifetime Award! ★



**Kevin & Laury Rooker
Poolville, Texas**

For over 20 years Kevin and his family have been heavily involved in the TLBAA in various roles. From Board member, to affiliate member, to actively being involved with the World Show, he brings a quality of class in everything he does. What

some don't often see is his support and appreciation for breeders that are just starting, or have come from great distances, or who aren't large in herd numbers, he celebrates their successes and makes each of them feel welcome and part of the association. I would venture to say that no one has given more of their time and efforts to the being a TLBAA member and breeder than Kevin Rooker.★



**John Stockton
Cleveland, Texas**

We are nominating John Stockton of Stockton Ranches for the Lifetime Achievement Award recognition. John put together the largest Texas Longhorn herd in the country working with the Burton family. The evolution of the hard twist throughout the Overlyn line of

cattle that has shaped a whole subfamily in the industry. He ran a straight Butler herd of cattle for many years. He helped bring the Legacy Sale back to life with Bill Hudson

and Joe Valentine. He was a sponsor of the Red McCombs sale, where he sold Day's Feisty Fannie for 59k setting a high selling record price at the time. He often topped the Cattle Baron Sale and received the honor of Breeder of the Year with that group. The list of accomplishments is so great we would need a book to list everything, and a single paragraph is the tip of the iceberg. Please help us and honor John Stockton with this prestigious award from the TLBAA..★

Jack Phillips Award



**Josh & Kit Dinwiddie
Plain Dirt Farms
Burneyville, Oklahoma**

Josh & Kit spend a lot of time quietly mentoring younger individuals as they are starting out in the breed. Josh has served as the ITTLA president, and recently the Dinwiddie's have taken on the huge task of putting on their own futurity event to help pro-

motivate and encourage participation in the industry.

I can personally attest to their devotion of helping new breeders as I don't believe I would be where I am with my herd today without Josh and Kit's support and mentorship. Since I started my herd in 2020 Josh and Kit have done so much to support and mentor me never asking for anything in return. ★

MEL RALEY RISING STAR AWARD



**Tom & Amy Buxton
Fort Worth, Texas**

Tom & Amy Buxton have exploded into the Longhorn world with wonderful enthusiasm! Buxton Longhorns have been active in sales and private treaty acquiring some of the best Longhorns available in the industry. Through calculated matings they are building their brand and

have some elite calves currently being shown at futurities nationally. They are major sponsors of sales and futurities big and small. Tom has recently joined the TLBA Foundation, hoping to help spearhead the long-awaited Texas Longhorn Museum. Passion, enthusiasm, and integrity is what comes to mind in describing Tom & Amy. They have exactly what the industry needs and they are so deserving of the Mel Raley Rising Star Award. ★



Brightman Family
Gary, Heidi, Carter, Grant & Cole Brightman
Norwich, NY

Having known Mel Raley personally, I can't think of any ranch or family more deserving of his namesake award. Mel would have appreciated this family's energy and fondness for the breed. In addition to their family business that pulls them in every direction, the Brightman's study pedigrees together, make buying and breeding decisions together and attend Longhorn events across the country.

This family has worked diligently to build a stellar line up of both bulls and females. Their genuine love for the breed is infectious and undeniable. They communicate with other breeders, discussing all aspects of the industry while continuing to develop and care for their growing herd.

Mel Raley and the Brightman family could be said to be cut from the same cloth. ★



Matt & Jodie Marti
Little hb Cattle Co
Amarillo, TX

Forging their membership with TLBAA in 2020 and joining the Texas Longhorn

Family, Matt and wife Jodie have come into the breed with full force. They are always seen working behind the scenes and adding a much-needed hand anywhere asked. 2024 was the birth of the 806 Futurity in Amarillo, TX, and with it was a class act. Setting a standard for an outstanding, smoothly run Futurity. Matt and Jodie and their wonderful daughters are a huge part of why TLBAA should exist and dream for a big future. Matt and Jodie have also created a phenomenal line of Texas Longhorns and are producing some fantastic future winners. They are very dedicated to the breed standards, as well as ethics. From numerous sale and futurity sponsorships over the short span, helping behind the scenes, and producing an outstanding venue, to breeding top notch registered Texas Longhorns, Matt and Jodie are the perfect example of a true rising star among us. ★

TLBAA SPECIAL AWARDS BALLOT

Official Online Ballot available at www.tlbaa.org/tlbaa-special-awards/

All TLBAA members are encouraged to vote for one fellow breeder in each of the categories for the special honors. One vote per membership number. Online submissions are preferred. Ballots can also be e-mailed to awards@tlbaa.org or mailed to the TLBAA office: PO BOX 4430, Fort Worth, TX 76164

Deadline for votes:

December 20th, 2024 5pm CST, no late ballots will be accepted.

DAVE EVANS BREEDER OF THE YEAR AWARD

- Hudson Longhorns, Sanger, TX
- Mark Hubbell, Hastings, MI
- Justin Rombeck, Axtell, KS

ELMER PARKER LIFETIME AWARD

- John T & Betty Baker, Liberty, TX
- John & Christy Randolph, Smithville, TX
- Kevin & Laury Rooker, Poolville, TX
- John Stockton, Cleveland, TX

JACK PHILLIPS AWARD

- Josh & Kit Dinwiddie, Burneyville, OK

MEL RALEY RISING STAR AWARD

- Tom & Amy Buxton, Fort Worth, TX
- Brightman Family, Norwich, NY
- Matt & Jodie Marti, Amarillo, TX

Member Name _____ TLBAA Member # _____

ONLY THIS OFFICIAL BALLOT WILL BE ACCEPTED
 Printable and online version available at www.tlbaa.org/tlbaa-special-awards