

## NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Chancey Hanson

405.235.4391 or [chanson@okcattlemen.org](mailto:chanson@okcattlemen.org)

# OCA is Saddened by the Passing of President-Elect, Mike Armitage

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK. March 20, 2020 – The Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Association (OCA) is saddened to hear of the passing of a well-known cattleman and industry leader, Mike Armitage of Claremore, OK. At the time of Mike’s passing, he served as the President-Elect of the OCA. In past years, he served the OCA as the Northeast District Vice President, as Chair of the Beef Business Committee and is a past recipient of the Cattleman of the Year award.

“Mike was always on the go, but he understood the value of taking time to be involved in organizations like the OCA and was a true Champion for the beef industry and our Association,” said Mike Weeks, OCA President. “A continuous smile was his trademark, when he spoke his words were tactful and heartfelt and he sincerely believed in the youth in Agriculture. As a result, he hosted the Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Foundation summer interns at his ranch.”

Mike Armitage and his family helped create the Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Foundation Internship program and have hosted students at the A Bar Ranch for the last five summers where those students have had the opportunity to learn from hands-on ranch work.

Mike passed away on March 19, 2020, at the age of 67. Michael Lee Armitage was born to the proud parents of Lee and Wilma Armitage on August 20, 1952, in Shawnee Oklahoma. He grew up in a rural, hard working environment while attending White Rock Elementary School. Mike found a love for agriculture, academics, and sports. He would credit his love for agriculture to his great aunt Nan when they partnered on their first cow.

Mike worked on the family farm through high school while attending Meeker high. He competed at the state level in track and basketball. Even though he played sports, he still maintained his involvement through his local Ag chapter. He attended Oklahoma State University where he got a degree in Agriculture Economics. He was a proud member of both Block and Bridle and Dr. Bob Kropp’s Livestock judging team.

Upon graduation he went to work for McGuirk Herefords in Claremore, OK. serving as ranch manager. This became the place where Mike cultivated his skills in the livestock industry, which included his service through livestock publication, purebred associations, the auction industry, and his favorite, livestock

marketing. As Mike would put it, he married his better half, “Martha Lou” Nunnallee Armitage on January 12<sup>th</sup> 1985. During their 35-year partnership they were able to, in time, purchase the McGuirk Ranch and grow their legacy into a cattle, equine, and marketing business today. All of these combined with their faith and friendships God blessed them with the commercial cow-calf business, A Bar Ranch.

While Mike had a strong love for the livestock industry it did not compare to the love and service he had for the Lord. He was an active member of the Cowboy Gatherin’ Church of Inola, OK. When Mike was diagnosed with cancer, he decided early on he was going to use this as an opportunity to be a testament to others while letting his light shine. Even in Mike’s darkest hours he was able to recount his life’s blessing through his family, friends and legacy.

Mike Armitage was preceded in death by his parents Lee and Wilma Armitage, mother and father-in-law, Calvin and Juanita Nunnallee. He is survived by his wife, Martha of the home. Three sons; Merrit and wife Michelle, Turner and wife Sarah of Claremore, OK, Kevin and wife Tana of Linn, TX. Brothers; Mark and wife Lisa of Meeker, OK, Mitchell and wife LiAnn of Jacktown, OK. Grandchildren; Myles and Maysa Armitage of Claremore and Cole Armitage of Norman, OK and numerous aunts, cousins, nieces, nephews and a host of friends.

Those who wish to honor Mike’s legacy with a memorial gift may do so with donations to be made to the Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Foundation, Mike Armitage Memorial Internship. Donate online at [okcattlemen.org/foundation](http://okcattlemen.org/foundation). There is a spot to note who your donation is in memory of. You can also donate by mail: Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Foundation, PO Box 82395, Oklahoma City, OK 73148. Please write Mike Armitage Memorial Internship in the memo.

Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Foundation is the charitable arm of the Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Association. The OCA is the trusted voice of the Oklahoma Cattle Industry. OCA is the only voice that speaks solely for the cattlemen of Oklahoma and represents beef producers in all 77 counties across the state. The OCA officers, board of directors and membership encourages you to join us in our advocacy efforts to ensure less government intervention, lower taxes and a better bottom line. For more information about OCA membership, the theft reward program or activities call 405-235-4391 or visit [www.okcattlemen.org](http://www.okcattlemen.org).

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