

2015 Spring Livestock Show Honoree Wayne and Deloras Thompson

Wayne and Deloras were both born and raised in a farming community of Holland, TX. After having served in the Air Force, Wayne started a 35 year career with Brown and Root in Houston. Deloras moved from her college Mary Hardin Baylor to Spring in 1959. She began her career with Spring ISD as a teacher and girls' basketball coach for high school and junior high. Wayne and Deloras were married on Thanksgiving Day in 1961 and have enjoyed over 53 years of marriage.

After about 5 years, Deloras retired and she and Wayne started building their family. The Thompson's had two sons, Troy and Roy, before Deloras entered back into Spring ISD when her oldest entered Kindergarten. Her role over the next several years was focused on her family and the school district her boys attended. She was room mom, on the PTA, Band Booster Club, and FFA. In 1982, Deloras decided to run for the school board. She served for 12 years on all School Board committees and in all officer roles, including two terms as President of the Board.

When Troy entered high school, he decided to join FFA. This is when Wayne and Deloras became personally involved with Tri-Club. After being raised on a farm and raising chickens by the hundreds for food and eggs, the Thompson's were a little hesitant when Troy chose Broilers as his first project. They quickly discovered that raising show chickens was different than raising farm chickens. Wayne and Troy used an old treehouse the boys played in and turned it into the first chicken coop. They ordered 20 broilers and it was a family affair from that point on!

Troy raised Grand Champion Broilers every year he was in high school and had a total of 5 Grand Championships! The Thompson's said, "FFA gave him a real support system and a lot of encouragement." Troy used the money he made to help pay for college. He was also a Tri-Club Scholarship recipient. They appreciated all that FFA had done for him, so after he graduated they continued to support Tri-Club because of how good it had been for their son. Wayne and Deloras feel that FFA and raising animals are great for the young people. They agree you must have discipline if you want a good animal. It teaches responsibility. Every year, the Thompson's continue to attend the Tri-Club auction and they always try to buy some things to support other students. They have been sponsors of buckles and banners over the years and have tried to stay in the Broiler category since Troy had so much success there. After graduating from Sam Houston State with a major in Agriculture Business and a Masters in Agriculture Economics from Texas A&M, Troy also comes back now to support Tri-Club. The Thompson's continued to own and maintain a family farm in Central Texas. The Thompson's said, "We believe a strong agriculture system is essential to the well-being of any country. Tri-Club is an organization providing opportunities for our youth to pursue future interest in agriculture areas."

Spring ISD has received a great deal of support from the Thompson family over the years. Deloras is also actively involved in the Spring ISD CTE Advisory Committee. Cynthia Williams, Director of Career and Technical Education for Spring ISD said this about Deloras. "Deloras Thompson is a wonderful person. She has served on the CTE Advisory Board for numerous years and continues to serve. Her passion is making sure that the students in Spring ISD are taken care of and supported to reach their full potential. Currently Deloras is serving as the Committee Chairperson for the Teen Parenting Committee. She also serves on the Teacher Program Grant and CTE Student Scholarship Committees. Whenever CTE has an event, we can count on Deloras' smiling face to be present and working to make sure the event is a success and that the end goal is to support our students and staff!"

In 1995, Mrs. Thompson received the honor of having the fourteenth elementary school in Spring ISD named after her as the Deloras E. Thompson Elementary School.

Thank you to Wayne, Deloras, and family for your many years of service and support to Spring Tri-Club.