



## **DONALD DALTON**

Donald Dalton is past president of the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association (USPOULTRY) during which, the organization grew to national scope and was renamed (formerly Southeastern Poultry and Egg Association) and the International Poultry Exposition became the largest in the world. Dalton supported student programs and enhanced USPOULTRY's College Student Career Program. He encouraged Association support of FFA and 4-H. Dalton was instrumental in creating the USPOULTRY Harold E. Ford Foundation; to encourage and fund poultry science education, research, and outreach. Dalton guided the USPOULTRY's extensive research program and expanded the industry education program into the Poultry and Egg Institute. He established food safety and environmental management departments to assist poultry firms. He retired in 1999 from the Arkansas Air National Guard with the rank of Brigadier General.

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## **LONNIE "BO" PILGRIM**

Lonnie "Bo" Pilgrim took a small feed store in Pittsburg, Texas and built it into one of the largest chicken companies in the world. Prior to the incorporation of Pilgrim's Pride. In 1946 Mr. Pilgrim and his older brother, Aubrey, started a small feed store, Farmer's Feed and Seed Co., in Pittsburg, TX. They began selling baby chicks and feed to local farmers, who later brought back the grown chickens to sell to the Pilgrim brothers. Selling chicks to drive feed sales was one of the many innovations that led to the "vertical integration" model of poultry production used by nearly every major poultry company today. Bo Pilgrim has served as senior chairman of the board, co-founder and majority owner of Pilgrim's Pride Corporation.

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**PAUL B. SIEGEL**

Paul B. Siegel was raised on a poultry-tobacco farm in Connecticut. Active in 4-H and FFA, he earned a 1948 plaque from the Chicken-of-Tomorrow Committee. He attended the 4-H Club Congress, was named Poultry Boy of the Year in Connecticut. While studying for his B.S. degree at the University of Connecticut he was a student laborer at the Storr's Egg Laying Test, President of the Poultry Club, conducted research on turkey incubation, and placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the Intercollegiate Poultry Judging Contest. At Kansas State University he was a teaching and research assistant. Upon completion of the Ph.D. he joined the poultry faculty at Virginia Tech where he remains today as a University Distinguished Professor. Dr. Siegel's research is basic and applied with a long-term focus on how traits change with genetic selection.

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## **ROBERT D. SPARBOE**

Robert D. Sparboe's passion for, and affiliation with the industry, drove him to grow his own company from a one-person operation in 1954 to the fifth largest egg producing and marketing company in 2005. Through his excellent communication and leadership skills, his principled convictions and general interest in people, Sparboe positively influenced all who met him. Following his military service in the Korean Conflict, Bob started the Sparboe Chick Company, and studied business administration at the University of Minnesota. The company developed to be the formation of Sparboe Farms, Inc. Collectively, Sparboe Companies developed to be one of the largest egg production and processing companies in the United States. Robert foresaw a shortage of college trained poultry professionals supported the formation of the Midwest Poultry Consortium.

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**JAMES PAUL THAXTON - 2008**

J. Paul Thaxton, Jr., a native Mississippian, B.S. Entomology, 1964, and a MS in Animal Physiology Mississippi State University, 1966. He then was Instructor of Biology at Northeast Louisiana State College then University of Georgia where he earned a PhD in Poultry Science in 1971. He joined the faculty at North Carolina State University in 1970. His research included studies on the influence of environmental factors on development and expression of immune competence in poultry. In 1985, Dr. Thaxton and H.V. Smith founded Embrex, Inc., and served as Vice President of Research and Development. In 1990 joined faculty at Mississippi State University.

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