



**For Immediate Release**  
**North Carolina Poultry Federation**

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**North Carolina Poultry Federation Inducts Two New Members into the Poultry Hall of Fame**

**Raleigh, NC – May 1, 2025** – The North Carolina Poultry Federation is thrilled to announce the induction of two distinguished individuals into the Poultry Hall of Fame during a ceremony at the NC State Park Alumni Center in Raleigh, North Carolina on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025. This year's honorees are Robert C. "Bob" Johnson and J. Walter "Gator" Pelletier.

The North Carolina Poultry Federation (NCPF) has represented the poultry industry in North Carolina since 1968. Serving producers and processors of chicken, turkey, and egg products, the Federation provides a united voice of the industry with government, media, and the general public. Since 1975 the Federation has recognized poultry industry pioneers and leaders through induction into the Hall of Fame.

Bob Johnson, son of House of Raeford founder Marvin Johnson, currently serves as the President and CEO of the company. Under his leadership, House of Raeford has consistently been one of the ten largest chicken producers nationally and the organization also ranks as one of the leading revenue producing companies in North Carolina. Bob takes an active leadership role in the poultry industry by serving on the Board of Directors for the North Carolina Poultry Federation, the National Chicken Council, and the international Poultry and Egg Association. He also strongly believes in giving back to the communities that House of Raeford has operations through monetary and product donations as well as personal involvement. As part of this outreach, he founded FLOCK (Faithful Love Offering for Christ's Kingdom) in 2009, a non-profit charitable organization focused on youth development, feeding the hungry, and support for mental health and addiction recovery programs. Bob joined his father Marvin Johnson as an inductee in the NCPF Hall of Fame and was presented his award by his son Cowan Johnson, who currently serves as the NCPF President.

J. Walter "Gator" Pelletier, our second inductee, began his career with Goldsboro Milling Company in 1981, rising to President of the organization in 2014, a position he still holds today. When the company purchased its interest in Butterball operations in 2006, Gator continued to invest his time, expertise and leadership skills into this business venture. This opportunity allowed him to serve as Head of Live Operations for Butterball, LLC. until his retirement in 2024. During his tenure of this role, he held responsibility for all breeder, hatchery, and meatbird operations nationwide. He also currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors for Butterball, LLC., a role he has held since 2006.

The induction ceremony celebrated the significant achievements and lasting legacies of these two exceptional individuals who have profoundly impacted the North Carolina poultry industry and beyond.



For more information about the North Carolina Poultry Federation and the Poultry Hall of Fame, please contact:

**North Carolina Poultry Federation**

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[www.ncpoultry.org](http://www.ncpoultry.org)

**Attached Photos & Captions:**

- (1) NCPF2025-1 – Left to Right: Robert Ford (NCPF Executive Director), Robert “Bob” Johnson, and J. Walter “Gator” Pelletier
- (2) NCPF2025-2 – Left to Right: Robert “Bob” Johnson and J. Walter “Gator” Pelletier
- (3) NCPF2025-3 – Left to Right: Robert “Bob” Johnson and J. Walter “Gator” Pelletier

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