



## People Spotlight: Tommy Williams

By Staff Reports (Tulsa World)

Tommy Williams, chairman of Williams & Williams Worldwide Real Estate Auction, was recently sworn in as president of the 6,500-member National Auctioneers Association.

Williams served on the group's board for a year, and then as vice president and president-elect. He has been a member for 44 years. He also served on the National Auctioneers Foundation Board for seven years.

Williams started in the auction business in 1963. He and his son, Dean, co-founded Williams & Williams in 1986.

Williams said he grew up in Illinois and Florida, and has lifelong involvement in the Angus cattle industry.

He moved to Tulsa in 1985 after local businessman Larkin Bailey convinced him to make the move, telling him, "If you come to Tulsa, I'm going to show you how to make dollars where you've been making pennies."

Williams said he made the move, opened the company with his son, and "found exactly the kind of opportunity Bailey promised."

The company started as a regional auctioneer of farms and ranches, and has now grown into the largest real estate auction company in the United States, selling an average of 1,000 properties each month across the 50 states.

Williams is past-president of the Sunrise Rotary, and Paul Harris Rotarian; a life member of the Masonic Lodge; has a lifelong active involvement in 4-H and numerous Angus cattle groups; and raises miniature horses at his farm in Bixby.

Tommy and his wife of 46 years, Trudy, have three children -- sons Dean and Dow Williams, and daughter Georgia Mayall.