

County; Alpena 4-H Club, Boone County; Monette Buffalo Island 4-H Club, Craighead County; Lakeside 4-H Club, Sevier County; Gaither-Valley 4-H Club, Boone County; Olvey 4-H Club, Boone County; Decatur 4-H Club, Benton County; Gravette Gleamers-4-H, Benton County; Chambers 4-H Club, Crawford County; Hilltop Kids 4-H Club, Pope County; Carnall 4-H Club, Sebastian County; Franklin County 4-H Shooting Sports Club, Franklin County; Hurricane Creek 4-H Club, Franklin County; Franklin County Teen Leaders Club, Franklin County; Pulaski County Teen Leaders Club, Pulaski County; Berryville 4-H Club, Carroll County; Atkins 4-H Club, Pope County; Shining Stars 4-H Club, Clark County; Salem Superstars 4-H Club, Saline County; Chapel Hill 4-H Club, Sevier County; Spirit of 76 4-H Club, Arkansas County; Batesville Pioneer 4-H Club, Independence County; Hector 4-H Club, Pope County; El Paso 4-H Club, White County; Towers 4-H Club, Union County; Magic Clovers 4-H Club, Saline County; Lion's Pride 4-H Club, White County; Johnson County 4-H Teen Leaders Club, Johnson County; Hasbrook Road 4-H Club, Craighead County; Bethlehem 4-H Club, Columbia County; H&S Dream Makers, Dallas County; Small Stockers & More 4-H Club, Marion County; Columbia County Livestock 4-H Club, Columbia County; Haskell 4-H Club, Saline County; Prairie Grove 4-H Club, Washington County; Greene County 4-H Livestock Club, Greene County; Greene County 4-H Club, Greene County; Hickory 4-H Club, Cross County; Boone County 4-H Sharpshooters, Boone County; Phillips County 4-H Club, Phillips County; L'eau Frais 4-H Club, Clark County; Dayton 4-H Club, Sebastian County; White County 4-H Leaders Association, White County; Mountaineers 4-H Club, Franklin County; 4-H Busy Beavers, Yell County; Lee County 4-H Club, Lee County; Conway County 4-H Foundation, Conway County; Caney Creek 4-H Club, Conway County; Conway County Livestock Club, Conway County; Hattieville Community 4-H Club, Conway County; Heritage Run Homeschool 4-H Club, Conway County; Latino 4-H Club, Conway County; Lucky Clovers 4-H Club, Conway County; Morrilton High School HOFNOD 4-H Club, Conway County; Nemo Vista Pioneers 4-H Club, Conway County; South of the River 4-H Club, Conway County; Trailblazers 4-H Club, Conway County; Union Chapel 4-H Club, Conway County; Wonderview High School 4-H Club, Conway County; and Viola Loyal Longhorn 4-H Club, Fulton County.●

HONORING DORIS J. JOHNSON

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, yesterday morning I met Doris Johnson of West Memphis, AR, who was selected by Experience Works as the recipient of the 2008 Changing Lives Award for Outstanding Senior Community Serv-

ice Employment Program, SCSEP, Participant. I want to congratulate Mrs. Johnson on receiving this award and changing her life through participation in the SCSEP.

Prior to her participation in the program, Mrs. Johnson's sole work experience was helping to run her family's sheet metal shop business for nearly 45 years. She managed many of the day-to-day office tasks which included sending and receiving invoices on behalf of the business. Unfortunately, in 1986, her husband's health began to deteriorate, and she suffered a heart attack herself. It was at this time that their son began running the company until it was eventually sold, when her husband passed away in 1996.

After her heart attack, Mrs. Johnson was not employed for nearly 20 years. In fact, her husband's death was very painful, and she rarely visited friends or ventured out of the house. But at the age of 77, realizing she needed additional income just to make ends meet, she contacted Experience Works.

For those who are not aware, Experience Works is the Nation's oldest and largest provider of job training and employment opportunities for older Americans. Each year, Experience Works serves over 20,000 older workers and local communities through the SCSEP.

Shortly before her 78th birthday, Mrs. Johnson was placed with the Amazing Grace Thrift Shop on a training assignment. She quickly learned to sort and fold clothes, as well as price and sell items. In a short time, she and another SCSEP participant tripled the sales at the store.

She soon was encouraged to take a new job as a receptionist with the Arkansas Rehabilitation Service, ARS. It was not an easy transition, though. Mrs. Johnson suffered from hearing loss and was concerned about her ability to answer the phone. In addition, the phone system was rather intimidating, and she was unsure if she could adapt. The staff at ARS was impressed with her, though, and they worked to help her obtain new hearing aids. She was also a quick study during phone training. She not only developed the skills to become a good receptionist but also took the initiative to take a phone list home so that she could learn employee names and extensions. Her work ethic, people skills, and ability to learn new task set her apart. In fact, her training supervisor has requested that she become the office assistant.

It has certainly made a difference in Mrs. Johnson's life. She says, "Being in the program has made a complete turnaround in my life." She displays a newfound confidence, and with some extra income, has returned to becoming an active senior.

Mrs. Johnson, I want you to know that you are an inspiration, not only to me and my colleagues but to the millions of seniors around our great State and across this country. Thank you for all you do, and good luck in your future endeavors.●

HONORING EDWARD R. JOHNSON

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, yesterday morning I met Edward Johnson of Springdale, AR, who was selected by Experience Works, the Nation's oldest and largest provider of job training and employment opportunities for older Americans, as the 2008 Outstanding Older Worker from the State of Arkansas. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Johnson on receiving this award and thank him for his steadfast service to our country and my home State of Arkansas.

More than 60 years ago, as an 18-year-old young man, Mr. Johnson enlisted in the U.S. Army. Over the next 30 years, he served our country in outposts from Japan and Korea to the Panama Canal and Vietnam. Upon his honorable discharge in 1978, he had earned the rank of sergeant major.

Without knowing what his next step in life would be, Mr. Johnson went to his local employment office to apply for unemployment benefits. Upon arriving, he found his second calling and began a second 30-year career as the local veterans representative in the Fayetteville office for the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, DWS. In this capacity, Mr. Johnson has assisted countless veterans find employment and helped disabled veterans find uses for their unique talents. He has said that the pleasure of putting veterans to work and their excitement when hired is what motivates him.

Throughout his service, he has become like a father figure and invaluable member of the DWS staff. It is not uncommon for him to go above and beyond to assist in a variety of capacities around the office. He is known to mentor new employees, especially veterans in the work/study program, and takes it upon himself to recognize colleagues with awards when they provide an outstanding level of service.

At the age of 78, Mr. Johnson is showing no signs of slowing down, either. He continues to learn how to use the newest technology needed to perform his job. He also likes to treat the staff by grilling hamburgers and hotdogs in the parking lot or bringing in his wife's homemade soup.

Beyond his work, Mr. Johnson is a valuable member of his community. He is a 23-year member of the Noon Lions Club, where he served as president from 1988 to 1989, and in 1999, he served as the Rogers-Lowell Chamber of Commerce Ambassador of the Year.

In closing, I want Mr. Johnson to know that he is an inspiration, not only to me and my colleagues but to the millions of seniors around our great State and across this country. We are thankful for his many contributions.●

TRIBUTE TO BOB FELLER

● Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, today I honor and congratulate an outstanding community member, distinguished veteran of World War II and

Baseball Hall of Famer who played for my hometown team, the Cleveland Indians, on his upcoming 90th birthday on November 3.

Bob Feller, also known as “Rapid Robert,” was born in 1918, and grew up in humble beginnings during the Great Depression on a farm outside Van Meter, IA. There he learned the importance of hard work, leadership and civic responsibility from his father Bill, who worked the family farm, and his mother Lena, who was a nurse and a school teacher.

While doing chores around the farm—including milking the cows and taking the hogs to market—Bob dreamed of becoming a Major League Baseball player. With the encouragement of his parents—especially his father, who had been a semi-pro pitcher—Bob honed his skills and worked to achieve his dream.

Bob and his father spent countless hours playing pitch and catch on the mound and a backstop his father had built between the barn and the house. When it was too cold to throw outside in the winter, they moved practice sessions into the barn.

As he grew, Bob’s pitching speed increased, and by the time he was in grade school he was regularly beating high schoolers. Word of his curveball and strong arm quickly spread, and sports fans across the country began to take notice of the kid with the “Heater from Van Meter.” As interest in Bob’s pitching grew, Bob’s father expanded the pitching mound and backstop into a full field with bleachers and a concession stand. A team was formed with Bob as pitcher and his father managing. Hundreds of people traveled to each game at the farm to pay 35 cents to watch young Bob dominate batters with his signature high windup kick and blazing fastball.

Bob began the first of his 18 seasons with the Cleveland Indians after his junior year of high school when he signed with the team and jumped straight to the big leagues. In his first Major League start, he backed up the hype and added to his legend by striking out 15 in a four-to-one win over the St. Louis Browns. At age 17, the win made him the youngest Major League pitcher to win a game—a record that still stands today.

After his rookie season, Bob returned to Iowa for his senior year of high school, and the eyes of the Nation followed him there. In fact, NBC covered his graduation live on national radio.

Back in Cleveland after graduation, Bob went on to establish himself as the premier pitcher in Major League Baseball, as he led the league in strikeouts in 1938, won 24 games in 1939 and, in 1940, threw the only Opening Day no-hitter in major league history. That year he also won a league best 27 games with an ERA of 2.61 and 261 strikeouts to win the pitcher’s Triple Crown.

Despite being at the height of his career, Bob traded his cleats and baseball cap for a Navy uniform without a second thought after the Japanese bombed

Pearl Harbor in 1941. Putting his country first, he signed up just 2 days after the attack, making him the first major leaguer to enlist in the military to fight in World War II.

In the Navy, Bob was assigned to the battleship U.S.S. *Alabama*, where he led an anti-aircraft gun crew and attained the rank of Chief Petty Officer. During missions in the Atlantic and the Pacific, he fought admirably along with his fellow shipmates in notable battles in the waters off New Guinea, Guam and the Philippines. Though Bob earned 5 campaign ribbons and 8 battle stars, he’ll quickly tell you that he is most proud that the *Alabama* never lost a man to the enemy in battle.

While on the *Alabama*, Bob stayed in shape by leading exercise classes twice a day, and playing on the ship’s baseball team; but his dedication to his mission and his shipmates was unquestioned. In fact, Bob declined an invitation by Admiral Nimitz to leave the war zone and fly to Honolulu to pitch in the Army-Navy World Series game, telling the admiral that he had more important things to do.

Bob missed all of the next 3 seasons—and nearly all of the 1945 season—but he never had any regrets. His wife Anne says, “For all that Bob accomplished in baseball, and all that baseball means to him, I still think Bob’s more proud about his service in the Navy.”

When the war was won, Bob returned to baseball. For many athletes, 3 years off would be a difficult challenge to overcome, but not for Bob. He returned to the Indians for the 1946 season and had arguably the best season of his career, as he won 26 games, pitched a no-hitter, two-one hitters and struck out 348.

After the 1946 season, Bob played a major role in the desegregation of baseball. In a series of exhibitions played across the country organized by Bob and his good friend Satchel Paige, the Bob Feller All-Stars matched up against the Satchel Paige All-Stars from the Negro Leagues. These games offered a great amount of national exposure, smoothing the path for Jackie Robinson and other African Americans who would later enter Major League Baseball.

Bob retired after the 1956 season as one of Cleveland’s all-time great players. Throughout his career he won 20 or more games in a season 6 times, pitched 3 no-hitters, was an integral part of the 1948 Indians team that won the World Series and played in the All Star Game eight times. He still stands as Cleveland’s all-time leader in shutouts, innings pitched, wins and strikeouts.

In 1962, Bob’s achievements were recognized when he was elected to the Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, becoming the first pitcher to enter the Hall in his first year of eligibility since charter member Walter Johnson.

More important than all of the records Bob holds are the lives he has

touched and the people he has inspired with his amazing gift. Like so many other boys growing up in the 1940s and 1950s, Bob Feller was one of my heroes. Getting to know Bob and observe his down-home humility, enthusiasm for life and baseball and, more importantly, his commitment to his country, has been a great joy for me during my time as mayor of Cleveland, Governor and now Senator for Ohio. I will never forget being on the mound with Bob and President Clinton on opening day of the inaugural season for Jacobs Field in 1994, and I still treasure the baseball he signed for me that day.

Since retiring from baseball, Bob has continued to touch countless lives, as he has devoted himself to serving the community with the same passion and work ethic that made him one of the best pitchers in baseball history. He is well known for always taking time to sign autographs and visit with fans and has dedicated countless hours to a number of causes. Today he proudly lists the Salvation Army, the Cleveland Indians Charities, the Little League of Gates Mills and the U.S.S. *Alabama* Foundation among his favorite charities. Bob also remains very active in the Major League Baseball Players Alumni Association and the Bob Feller Museum in Van Meter, IA.

Cleveland will be forever indebted to Bob for his contributions and I am proud he still fondly calls the area home. In fact, he currently lives with his beautiful wife Anne in nearby Gates Mills, where he remains in close touch with his three sons and grandson.

Despite all that he has accomplished, Bob remains the hard-working, down-to-earth, patriotic and compassionate farm boy from Van Meter. When asked once if he could relive any one of the many great moments of his life, Bob answered without hesitation, “Playing catch with my dad between the red barn and the house.”

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I would like to congratulate Bob Feller on his upcoming 90th birthday, and thank him for his service to his country, his dedication to the community and for sharing his love of baseball and the Cleveland Indians with so many. He is truly a role model that all of us should strive to emulate. I wish him continued health and happiness.●

TRIBUTE TO NANCY NEIGHBOR RUSSELL

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize a great Oregonian, Nancy Neighbor Russell. Not long ago, Nancy woke up and demanded that her family take her to see the Columbia River Gorge. It was not an unusual request because Nancy has been a tireless and fearless defender of the gorge for more than a quarter century. The scenic beauty of the gorge was her passion and protecting it was her crusade.

What made this trip different was that Nancy suffered from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, ALS, often referred to