

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 tasks 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 steady

fast 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