

50

*Celebrating
50 Years
with 50+
Fabulous
Older People*

50

Celebrating 50 Years





This year, the Older Americans Act (OAA) celebrates its 50th year—a golden jubilee for seniors and communities across the country. For this occasion, the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD) and Altarum Institute’s Center for Elder Care and Advanced Illness (CECAI) honor outstanding older adults who both volunteer for and benefit from the law’s programs. This booklet highlights the myriad ways that seniors make the United States a great place in which to live, work, and grow old.

NASUAD works to improve and sustain state systems delivering home and community based services and supports for people who are older or have a disability and their caregivers. CECAI works with older adults, advocates, and communities across the country to help make it safe to grow old. Each of the fabulous older people in the following pages was nominated by his or her State Agency on Aging. We commend these individuals on the dedication to public service and their communities. The work of these seniors also serves as a reminder of the essential services that are authorized and funded under the OAA and its importance in every state across the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martha A. Roherty".

Martha A. Roherty
Executive Director
National Association of States
United for Aging and Disabilities

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linc Smith".

Linc Smith
President and CEO
Altarum Institute

Alabama



Charlie Lucas

Charlie Lucas, a nationally known folk artist, was born on October 12, 1951. Lucas is a self-taught artist who uses another man's trash to produce his art objects. Lucas draws from his experiences in the Black Belt and from the iron and steel industry of the Birmingham region. He takes the piles of junk and remnants of raw materials along with paint and assembles portraits of people and animals, which he brings

to life with the stories he weaves around each piece.

Lucas was born in Birmingham and raised in rural Elmore County where he was one of 14 children in a sharecropping family. He often missed school to work on the farm, yet he was surrounded by an extended family of skilled craftspeople—blacksmiths, auto mechanics, quilters, and basket makers—who provided him the basics to use his creativity to later become a well-known artist. Lucas tells stories about his work and often encourages others to build stories around his work or the work that he helps them to create. This ability to connect with others makes him an especially good teacher for children's workshops. Lucas has traveled across America to exhibit his art, give talks and interviews, and conduct workshops for students of all ages. Lucas shares his talent with children all across Alabama as the hometown artist at various events in which he gives back to his community with children's workshops.

Alaska

Arliss Sturgulewski arrived in Alaska in 1952. She has served on many municipal and state boards and commissions, the Anchorage Assembly, and in the Alaska State Senate. She was the first woman to head a major party ticket when she was the Republican candidate for governor in 1986. She has also served in numerous organizations, especially those dealing with public policy and educational issues. She is a trustee for the University of Alaska Foundation, and serves on the Advisory Council for the University of Alaska, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences.



Arliss Sturgulewski

Ms. Sturgulewski has been an active lifetime member of the Anchorage Senior Activity Center since May 2009, and was on the center's Advisory Council. Among her many accomplishments, Ms. Sturgulewski was inducted into the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame in 2009.

Arkansas



Robert Perelman

Robert Perelman was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, on February 2, 1947. As a result of a car accident he was involved in at the age of four, Mr. Perelman became deaf. After graduating high school from the Arkansas School for the Deaf in 1967, he became interested in performing magic. His deaf and hearing friends taught him how to do tricks at a magic school in Little Rock in 1973.

Mr. Perelman performed magic shows all over Arkansas and Tennessee. He also volunteered his services by performing at the Human Development Center near his adopted home of Booneville, Arkansas, and at the local Salvation Army Center. He is a member of the Society of American Magicians.

Robert Perelman has also been a true inspiration to individuals of all ages in and around the community of Boonville, Arkansas. He is an avid participant and volunteer at the Boonville Senior Center, where he is well liked due to his sunny disposition and caring nature. At the center, he teaches an American Sign Language class that is open to all participants. Mr. Perelman has been instrumental in preparing local individuals who have impending hearing loss due to medical conditions learn American Sign Language. Mr. Perelman has been an inspiration to both those in the deaf and in the disabled communities, because he does not let his loss of hearing inhibit him from living an active lifestyle and fully participating in the activities the Senior Center has to offer. Mr. Perelman was nominated for the 2015 Senior Arkansans Hall of Fame, and it is our pleasure to recognize Robert Perelman from Boonville as the outstanding older adult to represent Arkansas.

Arizona

“We get depressed when family caregivers burn out,” says Lois von Halle, 60, of Scottsdale, who volunteers full time to support family caregivers. She was a caregiver of her husband, Brian, who has multiple sclerosis for over 35 years. She often tells you about her role as family caregiver. “You have a lot of emotions and feelings when it comes to the role of caregiving.” There was a time when Lois thought about quitting.

She experienced angry outbursts and depression that accompanied her husband’s declining physical health. She did the math and figured she could support her three children as a single mother. “But then I realized I didn’t want to,” she recalls. “I didn’t want to be living without him. Whatever it was, I had a bond there.”

They couldn’t afford respite care as Brian was no longer working, and his health declined quickly. Because of their age and income, the von Halles did not qualify for any of the four state-run respite programs. So she became an advocate for family caregivers and for access to respite supportive services through her efforts on the statewide Caregiver Resource Line. She joined the ranks of Arizona Caregiver Coalition and became the co-founder and Advisory Board Chair. She believes “respite care is not a luxury but an absolute necessity.” Lois has lobbied for a bill on behalf of Valley Interfaith Project and Arizona Caregiver Coalition for the last nine years. This effort would require Arizona to have this type of framework to support lifespan respite and respite supportive services including accessing federal, state, and local funding.



Lois von Halle

California



Jane Eckels

In her nine years on the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council, Jane Eckels has made significant contributions to the wellbeing of seniors throughout the community. We appreciate her leadership, dedication, and passion on behalf of the AAA. Jane's record of leadership is impressive. She has been actively involved in committees and workgroups, chairing the Legislative committee, Transportation and Mobility Committee, Executive Committee, Advisory Council, and was a founding

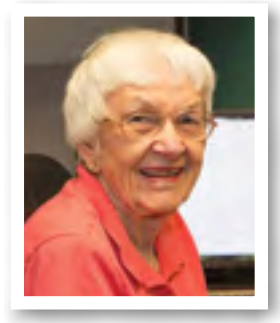
member of the Elder Protection Workgroup. In 2012 she received the Marge Ling Leadership Award, which acknowledges a member of the Advisory Council who displays the leadership, commitment, and passion for senior issues, and motivates fellow members of the Advisory Council to model and support healthy, active aging.

Jane's dedication to improving the lives of seniors shows in all her work. She serves on the board of Senior Advocacy Services which provides the Ombudsman and HICAP programs for our PSA, and has coached for a Matter of Balance, a AAA-funded, evidence-based health promotion program. She brings a level of professionalism and detail that comes from her years as a teacher and public relations media professional. Jane's ability to think creatively, identify issues, and solve problems is an asset to the AAA and the community. Jane is passionate about the AAA, seniors and people with disabilities in Sonoma County. She has contributed to expanding awareness of senior issues by both increasing the number and quality of outreach activities for the AAA. Her founding of the Elder Protection Workgroup and leadership in efforts to raise awareness of elder abuse and neglect through speaking engagements and special projects in honor of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day show her commitment to improving the lives of those in her community. As Chair of the Transportation and Mobility Committee, Jane has laid the groundwork for a collaborative, community-based approach to improving transportation programs and systems throughout the County.

Colorado

Freda Hoskin is an outstanding example of an older adult who is a representative of aging well and vibrantly and makes life better for older adults in Boulder County. Freda continues to work for the Area Agency on Aging as a database manager on the compliance team. Freda has also taken training and certification to become a volunteer Long-Term Care Ombudsman. She is always ready and willing to participate in division and

department wide projects and committees, most recently serving on a committee to find a Solution Focused facilitator and trainer for our Department. Freda is as involved at home as she is at work. She and her husband will be celebrating their 59th wedding anniversary this year. Freda is respected and valued within our agency with one staff member stating: “I have often said directly to Freda that she is my role model! Freda is a woman who inspires me to continue working hard in whatever is before me and offering myself fully to the task. She sees the best in everyone, no matter the circumstances.” Freda’s one other claim to fame—she was born on the same day and year as Elvis Presley!



Freda Hoskin

Connecticut



Helen Raisz

Helen Raisz has years of experience as a lecturer and adjunct professor in Connecticut, working at Trinity College, the University of Hartford, and Central Connecticut State University. She describes herself as a “scholar-activist,” and her activism crosses a wide variety of issues. Helen has been an active volunteer in the aging network in Connecticut for over forty years, working to advocate and build options

for independence for older residents and people with disabilities. She worked to found the Connecticut Coalition on Aging over forty years ago and remains an active member of their Board today. She has served on the Boards of the Connecticut Elder Action Network; Connecticut Community Care, Inc.; and the Bristol Community Organization. She worked as a member of the Asylum Hill Elderly Services Advisory Committee. She remains active at the national level in the Gerontological Society of America, the National Council on the Aging, and the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education. Among her many awards and recognitions, Helen was the 2011 recipient of the AARP Connecticut Andrus Award for Community Service, its highest volunteer honor. She lives in Farmington, CT, and continues to advocate for the aging community at local, state, and national levels.

Delaware

Jim Miller is 81 years old and works full-time as a Senior Accountant for the Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities of the Department of Health and Social Services, State of Delaware. He is also a volunteer for the Division's Money Management Program, assisting low-income seniors and adults with physical disabilities maintain their financial independence by helping them budget

their money and pay their bills. A friendly, positive person, he serves as an inspiration to others with his upbeat attitude, problem-solving skills, and his focus on his job. He is always there for his colleagues and those he volunteers to assist. Jim is active in his church, is dedicated to his wife and family (5 children, 4 grandchildren), and last year, to celebrate his 80th birthday and 60th anniversary, he went skydiving. He hopes to skydive again soon. We think Jim is truly fabulous!



Jim Miller

District of Columbia



*Clarence "Buddy"
Moore*

Thurgood Marshall Trust Fund 2014 Phenomenal Senior Clarence "Buddy" Moore has actively been involved in several political, social, and economic campaigns and programs both locally and nationally while providing leadership training and scholarship opportunities for the Metropolitan Police Department Youth Advisory Council students. Mr. Moore is also a dedicated advocate for caregivers and believes that quality and dependable

assistance is essential to today's overworked Primary Caregivers. His theme "Think Healthy, Eat Healthy, Act Healthy... Be Healthy!" was the winning theme chosen from more than 1,000 entries submitted by older adults across the country for the 2013 National Senior Health and Fitness Day Theme Contest. Mr. Moore has received numerous awards from, but not limited to the US Attorney's Office, the Ward One Council on Education, the Metropolitan Police Department, and the Government of the District of Columbia. Currently Mr. Moore is a volunteer with the ALS (Lou Gehrig Illness) Association, and he established the *Carolyn J Moore Memorial Scholarship Award* in memory of his late wife. Mr. Moore continues to assist seniors at the Bernice Fonteneau Senior Wellness Center by writing their memoirs and developing their personal portfolios.

Florida

Janet Mills has been a volunteer with the Department of Elder Affairs' SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) Programs for 10 years and has taken on additional responsibilities as the area coordinator for her region. In the last five years alone, she has helped more than 10,670 people with Medicare counseling. The SHINE Program provides free, confidential, and

unbiased assistance for Florida's 3.7 million Medicare beneficiaries, as well as their families and caregivers. The world of Medicare and health care for those age 65 and over can be a daunting and confusing system to navigate. Janet and other SHINE counselors serve those individuals who need guidance and, in many cases, evaluate their existing plans and help them find hundreds and thousands of dollars in cost savings annually. Janet is an outstanding volunteer who gives of herself freely, and she never stops. They call her "the energizer bunny with the heart of gold." She was recently awarded the Arnie Abrams award at the SHINE leadership conference. That award is given to the volunteer of the year for their determination, tenacity, and passion, which Janet displays every day without fail.



Janet Mills

Georgia



Chuck Ware

Chuck Ware is an outstanding senior advocate. He was honored earlier this year as the 2015 Distinguished Older Georgian by the Georgia Council on Aging. He organized and supervises the senior program for Georgia STAND-UP; he is an avid supporter of AARP; he rallies at the Georgia State Capitol for senior supported legislation. Mr. Ware is to be commended for his many years of dedication to senior programs. He is a

member of the board of directors for the Clayton County Meals on Wheels. His support is unlimited, and he works tireless hours to get seniors registered to vote, as well as, assisting them to the polls. He is a role model and mentor to the younger generation, and he always capitalizes on the opportunity to provide assistance regardless of age, gender, or nationality. This is one of the many ways to recognize his many efforts in the community and to thank him for his many years of service.

Hawaii

RSVP Outstanding Female Volunteer of the Year, Ms. Yolanda P. Morreira, has been a resident of Mililani and a parishioner at St. John Apostle and Evangelist Catholic Church for over 40 years. A loving wife, mom of three, and tutu of five, she gives of her time and talent in many different ways, such as helping at two fun ministries at the parish that included hula and low impact exercises for seniors. It was Ms. Morreira's passion for helping seniors that drew us to seek her assistance with Kupuna Kokua.



Yolanda P. Morreira

As a Kupuna Kokua Ministry-RSVP Volunteer Leader and Site Coordinator, Ms. Morreira has developed a trusting relationship with the building managers at four of the five senior apartment complexes in Wahiawa. Some of her responsibilities are managing, organizing, and training 30 volunteers from her own parish and at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Wahiawa. As a Volunteer Leader of this unique homeless prevention ministry, Ms. Morreira pairs together volunteer teams, the majority of whom are 55 years and older, along with kupuna who would otherwise be at risk of failing their inspection and facing possible eviction. We are very proud of her and the important work she is doing with Kupuna Kokua Ministry and the beautiful way that she is living her faith in service to others.

Idaho



Cara McCann Snyder

Cara McCann Snyder celebrates *what's right* with living in community, drawn-in, in love, by a call to serve. Every day she shows up and shows us that it is possible to instrumentally change lives. Cara's service is reflected and recognized in the abundant care of others. In each new relationship made, Cara opens not just doors but hearts and hands in need of presence, empathy, acceptance, nurturance, trust, and love. The many sacraments of her service *necessarily are* good work.

A life-long volunteer, Cara pursued her education later in life and became a licensed social worker. For over a decade she worked as a case manager for frail elders typically living alone in our frontier Idaho communities, most often without family and friend support. Upon retirement, Cara more deeply rooted her passionate care for people. She actively volunteers on a daily basis and her service includes but is not limited to: Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving, where Cara is a volunteer RCI/REACH Interventionist who provides direct care and intervention to family caregivers of those living at home with Alzheimer's disease; Powerful Tools for Caregiver, where Cara teaches family caregivers necessary tools of providing family care to people living at home with Alzheimer's disease; Chronic Disease Self Management Program, where Cara is a certified CDSMP volunteer who teaches a six-week class; Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for Children, where Cara advocates for the best interests of abused and neglected children in courtrooms and communities; Nez Perce County Board of Community Guardians, where she provides guardianship and conservatorship for adult county residents that need an umbrella of protection; Interlink Volunteers, where Cara assists elders and people with disabilities to live independently; Lewiston Preservation and Historic Commission; City of Lewiston Library, where Cara volunteered for many years to establish a new library so as to provide better access to knowledge, ideas, and information and to support citizens in their pursuit of learning and reading; and Catholic Daughters of the Americas, where Cara volunteers to advance donation to charities and administer scholarship programs.

Illinois

Dr. Russell Dohner had been the town doctor (of Rushville) since 1955. For close to 60 years, he made house calls and patient rounds at the local hospital and nursing home, and until he retired his practice in October 2013, would charge only \$5.00 for visits. Considered a hero by many, this World War II veteran says if he can do something for people, he will do it. He has donated several thousand trees to the community,

contributed funds to create a walking path in the local park, and has an annual golf outing named for him which recently raised over \$40,000 for the local hospital. Dr. Dohner has also been honored with a life-size bronze statue of himself which sits in the Rushville town square. Other honors include being featured on the Today Show, in People Magazine, serving as Grand Marshall for the 2013 Illinois State Fair Parade, and being inducted into the Illinois Senior Hall of Fame. Dr. Dohner currently resides in Rushville.



Dr. Russell Dohner

Indiana



After turning 82 years old in 2015, Arlene Franklin recently decided to retire from her full-time position as the Indiana Director of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman office which she has headed for nearly 17 years. During her 45-year tenure in state government—“over half my life!”—she also served 13 years as the Adult Protective Services State Director.

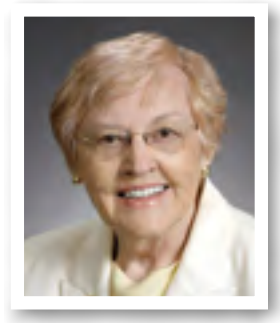
Arlene Franklin

Arlene is a self-made woman who, against strong odds, received her high school diploma while raising three small children. She went on to graduate from college when those three children were teenagers while she continued raising them as a single mom. Her bachelor’s degree allowed her to work initially as a teacher until she moved to Indiana and joined the state’s welfare department, which has evolved into the current Family & Social Services Administration that houses the state’s Division of Aging. Always an advocate for others, Arlene lives her personal life in the same manner. Five years ago, she assumed legal guardianship of her two great-grandchildren, and now Arlene is retiring from the state so she can assist her family as a part-time caregiver for her great-great granddaughter.

Iowa

At 87, Betty Grandquist embodies the spirit of a strong, hard-working Iowan who values her family and community and has lived her life giving back to others. Although she has worn many hats over time—from registered nurse to wife, mother, graduate student and director of the Iowa Department of Elder Affairs (now the Iowa Department on Aging)—Betty has always been an advocate, speaking up on behalf

of others to make sure their voices were heard. Today, in addition to serving on the board of Iowa CareGivers to ensure direct care workers have the skills and training necessary to adequately care for residents, Betty chairs the Iowa Commission on Aging to help craft policy that enhances the quality of life for older Iowans. “It’s a very ‘Iowa’ thing to do,” Betty said of being a commissioner. “It’s important to do what we can for as long as we can to help others, whether it’s at the local, state or national level. As long as we keep our eyes and ears open to all that is going on around us, there is much to marvel at and enjoy.”



Betty Grandquist

Kansas



Sherman "Wes" Cole

Sherman "Wes" Cole, a veteran and mental health professional, retired as interim Superintendent from Osawatomic State Hospital, one of Kansas' two psychiatric hospitals, after 38 years of service. But he didn't stop working. He is currently Chair of the Governor's Behavioral Health Services Planning Council, and serves on several of its subcommittees, is past chair of the Miami County Mental Health Center

Board and is a board member of Kansas Health Solutions. Mr. Cole is a former mayor of the City of Osawatomic, former Miami County Commissioner and serves on the Miami County Economic Development Board, as well as chairs the Eastern Kansas Economic Development Corporation. He is Adjutant of American Legion Post 204. Mr. Cole continues to work tirelessly to improve the health and lives of the people of Kansas, Miami County and his hometown of Osawatomic. Kansas couldn't be prouder of this Fabulous Older Person.

Kentucky

In September 2006, Nancy Wilson began attending the Frankfort Senior Activity Center and started an alteration and repair shop in the craft room. At age 93, Nancy has raised a total of \$75,000 in proceeds to benefit the Franklin County Senior Center from doing alterations and repairs. She is at the alteration shop every weekday from 7:30 am – 1:00 pm. She makes bedding for animal shelters, hot pads for the home delivered meal program to help feed local seniors, and pot holders for the center. The Frankfort Senior Activity Center has commemorated the craft room as “The Nancy Wilson Craft Center” in her honor.



Nancy Wilson

Louisiana



Jo Eddins

Jo Eddins, who turned 91 in July, is an employee of the Caddo Council on Aging (CCOA). She is the Information and Referral Specialist. She has worked for the CCOA for seventeen years. She is an amazing person. She works 40 hours a week and never misses a day. We have to force her to use her vacation days and rarely does she use her sick days. She runs circles around everyone else in the office. She uses her MIGHTY rolodex

file for all of the resources in Caddo Parish. We have a joke at our office that when the computers and internet are down we all run to her rolodex file for information. It is even more up-to-date than our online resource directory and has twice the information. She is the friendly voice that answers the phone at our agency. Our office even posted a YouTube video on Jo, “Meet Jo Eddins, the helpful phone voice of Caddo Council on Aging—Shreveport, LA” to tell her story better than words can.

Maine

Barbara Bush is admired and respected by many Mainers young and old. She was raised in Rye, New York, where she met her future husband, George Bush. The two married in 1945, when the future president returned home to Texas on leave from the Navy. Mrs. Bush became the mother of six children, and was described as the linchpin of the family. In addition to their home in Texas, the Bush family enjoys their vacation home in Kennebunkport, Maine.



Barbara Bush

Throughout the years, Mrs. Bush has made contributions to Mainers and Americans alike. As First Lady, her mission included improving America’s literacy. Involved with many organizations devoted to this cause, she became Honorary Chairman of the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy. A strong advocate of volunteerism, Mrs. Bush helped many causes—including the homeless, AIDS, the elderly, and school volunteer programs. In addition to her work across America, she has a long standing commitment to the people of Maine. In 1995, in honor of her continued commitment to children, Maine Medical Center named its children’s hospital after the First Lady. Mrs. Bush graciously accepted the honor and reminded those in attendance that “children are our future” and that providing “a great start to life for all children” is the most basic of needs and priorities. Each spring, when President and Mrs. Bush return to Maine, a visit to The Barbara Bush Children’s Hospital at Maine Medical Center is always on her itinerary!

Maryland



Constance A. Morella

Constance A. Morella served as Ambassador to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) from 2003 until 2007. She is the first United States Ambassador to the OECD ever to have served in the United States Congress. From 1987 until 2003, Ambassador Morella represented Maryland's 8th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives where she developed a national reputation as a leading advocate for women, children and families. Previously, she served for eight years in the Maryland House of Delegates. During her sixteen years in the House

of Representatives, Ambassador Morella was a leader in efforts to promote economic growth through science and technology, serving as a member of the House Committee on Science and chairing the subcommittee on Technology. She spearheaded the enactment of the landmark legislation promoting technology transfer from federal labs to private industry. While in Congress, Ambassador Morella also served as a member of the White House Conference on Aging. A strong supporter of economic growth through free trade, Ambassador Morella was in the forefront in the Congress on matters of trade and foreign policy. She advocated liberalized trade rules and heightened international engagement. She chaired the Congressional Cause for Women's Issues, advancing efforts to promote access to micro-enterprise capital among women in developing countries.

For her many efforts, Ambassador Morella has received numerous awards and recognitions, including induction into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame, Outstanding Public Service awards from the American Medical Association, the American Bar Association and the Hubert H. Humphrey Civil Rights Award from the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights "for selfless and devoted service in the cause of equality." Prior to her service in the U.S. Congress and the Maryland House of Delegates, Ambassador Morella was a Professor of English. In 2008, she was a Resident Fellow at Harvard University's Kennedy School Institute of Politics. In 2009, she was appointed Ambassador in Residence at American University School of Public Affairs where she teaches "Women, Politics, and Public Policy." Ambassador Morella holds a B.A from Boston University, an M.A. from American University and twelve honorary degrees. Along with her husband, Anthony, American University Professor of Law Emeritus, Ambassador Morella has raised nine children, including her late sister's six children.

Massachusetts

Enid Shapiro, who retired two years ago from the Geriatric and Family Service Associates after nearly fifty years as a practicing social worker, is the embodiment of community activist. At age 89, she retired, she said, to travel with her great grandchildren. Having devoted her career to Boston area seniors, Enid continues to serve as an active member of the Executive Office of Elder Affairs Citizens

Advisory Committee. In addition to a long list of professional and educational awards honoring her energetic, articulate advocacy for seniors, Enid has been recognized for active engagement in a wide variety of community organizations. She is an outspoken critic of social injustice and an enthusiastic supporter of initiatives that bring generations together.

As a longtime devoted caregiver to her late husband, Enid is a limitless resource for people in similar situations, and is an empathic, caring friend. Wherever people are in need or in difficult circumstances, Enid is there to help, support and advocate.



Enid Shapiro

Michigan



Regina D. Allen

Regina D. Allen is Michigan’s senior volunteer extraordinaire—always “fabulous,” always engaged in community life, always advocating for positive change on behalf of older adults and veterans. A native Michiganiaan, Ms. Allen’s volunteer interests in retirement have been built on nearly four decades of career public service with the Social Security Administration. Her “never say never” attitude, compassion for others,

knowledge of public policy issues, keen political instincts, humility, and sense of humor all contribute to her championing the Older Americans Act and those served by it. The State Advisory Council on Aging, Region 6 Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council, Volunteers of America, local TRIAD, and many other groups are made better by her participation. The Great Lakes State of Michigan is extremely proud of Ms. Allen’s myriad volunteer accomplishments over many years, and honors her as part of this national Golden Jubilee celebration.

Minnesota

John Olker came to the Minnesota Senior LinkAge Line® shortly after his retirement and has been a dedicated, enthusiastic member of the volunteer team for ten years. Whether working the phone bank or providing one-on-one insurance counseling at his community senior center, John guides and helps consumers navigate the ins and outs of their Medicare options. With well over 1,000 hours of volunteer service, John's colleagues rely on him as an expert resource for health insurance information, and they also enjoy his wry sense of humor. John is a busy man with varied interests, and the Senior LinkAge Line® is honored that helping older adults make informed health insurance choices is part of John's vision for his personal aging excellence.



John Olker

Mississippi



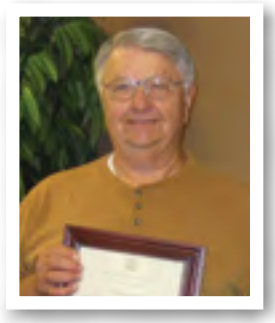
Juanita Turney

Mrs. Juanita Turney was born in 1919 in Greenville, Mississippi, where she remains a fixture of the town. For decades, Mrs. Turney has been respected and treated as a woman of sovereignty. She has promoted and attended most Greenville events for the past 90 years. Her grandmother encouraged her to get an education and look for the finer things in life. Mrs. Turney loves to play piano and sing. She sang her first solo

at the church that one of her ancestors, who was a slave, established. Her solo of “Jesus Wants Me For A Sunbeam” was requested in other churches. After graduation from high school, Mrs. Turney was the only one in her class to attend college. She graduated from Knoxville College with a Bachelor’s Degree in Music and began teaching in the same classroom of Greenville that her mother had once taught. Her beginning monthly salary was \$59.15. There were very few books and sometimes three to four children at one desk. Mrs. Turney once said, “I was brought up to look at the good in things.” Mrs. Turney said that she never really experienced race relations in a negative way until she was denied purchasing a ticket to a symphony in Greenville. She would eventually become Secretary of this same organization. Mrs. Turney has always strived to be a teacher and advocate for elderly programs in Mississippi. She was an Ombudsman and a State Health Insurance Program Volunteer. Mrs. Turney was the recipient of the 2013 SHIP Volunteer of the year award. Mrs. Turney was recently crowned Tamale Queen of Greenville, Mississippi. People of her hometown joke and say, “Don’t touch Mrs. Turney, she will take your energy.” Mrs. Turney is a testament of what making a difference in the lives of other people resembles, and Mississippi is honored to call her our own.

Missouri

Clyde Jones's "recent contributions" are the latest chapter in a life-long story of community service. Since the close of a federal career in 1987, his investments of time and energy in diverse volunteer directions have equaled the commitment to his compensated career. He never slows down, despite vision difficulties, joint problems, and several injuries. In addition to all his generosity in volunteering for "those he's never met before," he gives amply to his family and personal friends as well. Clyde spent much of the last 18 months helping his cousin through end-of-life caregiving.



Clyde Jones

After retirement, Clyde strode to the deep end of volunteerism and dove in head-first. He offers courage to those he finds swamped—program managers, service-seeking souls, and volunteers in need of a companion guide. During tax counseling season, in one service site after another, hair tousled from marathon sessions, he sits in a sea of clients, attending each one to the very last need. He's not gone until there's an answer for all those he sees. He's a volunteer who seeks to make a bonus difference for those he serves. When a grieving widow needed help with a tax paper maze, he solved the challenge and followed up with six roses to honor her grief. When others have gone and there are yet hours of hauling and loading to do or administrative tasks to be churned, he's still there and delivers capable company and encouragement to the close of day. He's never too important for any task. He's a champion in character and a volunteer friend of the best sort—the kind who works well beyond his keep. The organizations that benefit from his volunteerism include: Southwest Missouri Office on Aging; Mercy Hospital, Springfield, MO; Ash Grove Cemetery; Community Action Council Volunteer History; Nathan Boone Historical Homestead; and perhaps the most notable volunteerism of all is his pervasive, personal commitment to helping others, outside the umbrella of any official organization and apart from any "hours of service" recognition or supervision. This spirit of self-directed volunteerism is testimony to his character and generosity. His hope that those who receive his help will use it to help themselves and others, in turn, is empowering.

Montana



Ruth Pomeroy

Ruth Pomeroy is a committed volunteer in every sense of the word, and at age 87 she is an inspiration to people of all ages, having given more than 3500 hours to serving older adults in our community. Ruth has been a Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) volunteer since 1996. She began volunteering at our Agency in 2012. She serves as a Medicare Counselor, helping people understand and enroll in Medicare and

related benefits. She also educates people about ways to help prevent waste, fraud and abuse in the Medicare program and how to avoid becoming a victim of the many scams aimed at older adults. Many of the cases that Ruth deals with are complicated and require days of phone calls and research to accomplish the desired outcomes, but she always goes the extra mile. Ruth has developed a highly informative presentation that she shares with many groups of people, including veterans, retiring employees and local senior center members. She also sets up “shop” for a full week every year at the County Fair—reaching hundreds of people with her message. Her services empower older adults and help save Medicare dollars. When Ruth is not serving as a Medicare Counselor, you will find her in the Agency’s dining hall or in a local nursing home playing piano, spreading joy and bringing smiles as folks remember the music they so loved from their younger days. Ruth also serves as a companion at the nursing home and has assisted the AARP tax program as a tax counselor. There are no words adequate to express the praise she deserves for the commitment she has made to the Area IX Agency on Aging, to our community and to the many older adults she has helped. Her professionalism and caring attitude are her greatest attributes. She is an absolute treasure!

Nebraska

Beatty Brasch recently turned 75. For the last 25 years she has worked tirelessly at her mission and life's focus—to help move people out of poverty and even the playing field for low income individuals and families. At age 62 she “retired” from her position as Executive Director of a thriving Community Action Agency to start her own kind of non-profit organization, the Center for People in Need. Over the last 12 years, the Center for People in Need has grown from operating out of a small 2-bedroom home to almost bursting out of its current 80,000 sq. foot facility. Beatty's unwavering commitment and unfailing compassion to help people escape poverty has created a very unique and innovative organization that provides ESL classes to more than 275 people every day, food to more than 1,000 people every week, and distributes clothing and household goods to more than 250 other non-profit organizations serving the poor across the state of Nebraska. The Center for People in Need also offers job training programs, a 24-seat computer learning lab, and multiple services to assist low income refugees new to the country and our community. But Beatty doesn't stop there. Beatty's vision for helping people out of poverty also includes advocacy and education. She regularly testifies before the state legislature on issues impacting low income individuals and families, and has created an action-alert program that sends emails to her list of more than 13,000 people that educates them about important issues, facts about people living in poverty in our community, and gives them the tools to take action with her to move for greater change and hope for the poor. Beatty recognizes there are many misconceptions and stereotypes about those living in poverty and works every day to combat those issues and help the community understand the issues of poverty in Lincoln. Beatty's work impacts the lives of so many, in so many different ways, it is impossible to fully measure but it is always with compassion, humor, and sincerity.



Beatty Brasch

Nevada



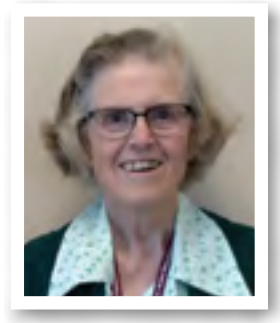
Jane Holkestad

Jane Holkestad has been married over 50 years to a wonderful man who is an Alzheimer's patient at Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health. Jane includes her husband in her volunteer activities at the Clinic. For example, each month they drive in and pick up a cart full of fliers and envelopes for our Programs and Caregiver Services mailer. They take the cart back home to their community and, along with some

neighbors, fold and stuff an average of 1000 envelopes on a monthly basis. Then, they return to the Clinic to attach the address labels and run the envelopes through the postage meter. This is a long, labor-intensive process but critical to our "getting the word out" to people who do not use email. Jane is an inspiring volunteer who also receives services from the Older Americans Act. Jane attends our Memory Loss Support Group with her husband as well as the Art in the Afternoon and Lunch & Learn programs. Jane has found a way to integrate caring for her husband with being very involved in the programs and services offered by the Clinic. Jane volunteers at least 208 hours a year!

New Hampshire

A 33-year volunteer for New Hampshire's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, Ann Kelley is one of New Hampshire's outstanding older citizens. A registered nurse who taught at the University of New Hampshire School of Nursing during her professional career, Ms. Kelley was a participant in the first OLTCO volunteer class offered in 1982, and has served both as a volunteer and preceptor (volunteer



Ann Kelley

mentor), observing, guiding and supporting new volunteers. She is retiring this year from her OLTCO volunteer duties. During her years as an OLTCO volunteer, Ms. Kelley has used her skills as a registered nurse to assist in identifying care concerns in the facilities where she was assigned and made appropriate recommendations to assist the facilities in providing and improving care. She always took the time to get to know the residents and to find out what was important to them, so that she could monitor whether or not the facility was attending to their social and spiritual needs. Additionally, Ms. Kelley took the time to notice if a resident had visitors, and provided information on who to contact if further advocacy supports were needed. "Ms. Kelley is a shining example of volunteer dedication," says Darlene Cray, Volunteer Program Coordinator at the OLTCO. "She takes the mission of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program seriously and never seems to falter. She has provided a voice to the person who needs to be empowered and a gentle hand to the frail elder who needs an advocate on their behalf."

Ms. Kelley was a 2011 Vaughan Award recipient due to her extraordinary volunteer service and also received the 2015 Judith D. Griffin Advocacy Award, an annual state award for an individual or group who has made an outstanding contribution to enhancing the quality of care, quality of life, and the rights of residents of long-term care facilities.

New Jersey



Carl West

Carl West was at the forefront of what has become the area agency on aging network. In fact, after graduating from law school Carl attended the first White House Conference on Aging. Now as a retired Area Agency on Aging Director, an elder rights advocate, founder of several NJ and national aging associations, he is uniquely qualified to serve as the senior network “historian.” As the nation celebrates the Older Americans Act 50th anniversary, NJ celebrates his achievements and his ability to

actively engage those of us who followed in his footsteps to understand and promote the OAA’s core mission, vision and values. Upon his retirement Carl was the longest serving area agency on aging director in the country. He has attended all the White House Conferences on Aging held up to 2005, and this year he continued to follow the proceedings via the internet. Carl was the co-founder of the NJ Association of Area Agencies on Aging and served as its founding director, legislative chair and president. Carl also served on the board of the National Association of Area Agencies which has well over 650 members.

Carl has been a long-standing board member of the National Caucus and Center on Black Aged and served as the Chairman of their national board. The National Caucus is a multi-million dollar organization that sponsors affordable housing programs for low income seniors across the country. To advance NJ’s aging policy and foster innovative programs for older adults and caregivers, Carl was a founding board member and president of the NJ Foundation for Aging, which was established in 1998. Although officially retired as an AAA director, Carl continues to be a strong advocate for the Older Americans Act and its original principles championed in 1965. His years of experience, dedication and commitment to the aging network, older adults, and caregivers has provided Carl with sage advice and the wisdom to recognize that the changing needs and challenges facing the aging network today and tomorrow continue to require innovative thinking and realistic solutions.

New Mexico

Mr. Resendis, an 81-year-old senior volunteer, is a great asset to the community. He has been a volunteer at Concilio CDS Inc. (a 501c3 civic and social not for profit organization in New Mexico) for over 16 years. Mr. Resendis is always looking for resources in the community to help seniors that live alone and don't have family to help them in their daily living tasks. When Mr. Resendis retired he felt useless and began falling into depression. When Mr. Resendis began working with his clients his perspective on life started changing, and he felt like he could make a difference in these seniors' lives. Mr. Resendis states, "My life had a purpose after I became a Senior Companion volunteer; life was beautiful and I cherished every moment I got to spend with my clients." Mr. Resendis not only serves his clients but forms a friendship with them; they become family to him because most of them do not have family and feel abandoned and lonely. Mr. Resendis states, "They get to talk to people their age, share about their illnesses and talk about things that another senior would understand. I see that volunteers really care for the seniors; they serve with their heart." Mr. Resendis is an advocate and supporter for all those seniors in his community that are in need of services, and he helps those that need that love and attention.



Julian Resendis

New York



Russell Hallock

Russell Hallock is a lifelong resident in the town of Washingtonville and was unanimously awarded the 2015 Orange County Outstanding Contribution by a Senior Award. Russell continuously puts the needs of others before himself. Russell attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute seeking a degree in engineering. After retiring from West Point, Russell became the full-time caregiver to his parents. He was introduced to the life of volunteerism through his mother who

was an active home-delivered meal volunteer for more than 40 years. Russell currently volunteers for three of Blooming Grove's programs dedicated to assisting seniors. He has delivered meals for the Senior Dining Program for over 25 years. Russell is known for delivering meals to homebound seniors as the guy "who will go, regardless of the weather, with a smile and a hello." He goes beyond just the delivery of the meal—Russell takes the time to chat and to make sure all is well with the meal recipient. He is also an integral part of Blooming Grove's FISH program, giving his time for more than 20 years. This program provides medical equipment and supplies to those who cannot afford to purchase these items on their own. He will personally pick up donations and make sure they make it to the homes of those who are in need.

Three years ago, Russell took on an additional venture. He is now a volunteer for the Blooming Grove Neighbor for Neighbor Program. Russell rarely turns down a call to help. According to the program coordinator, "Russell will only turn down a call to help when he is already booked to help someone else at the same time." He is extremely dedicated. Russell provides transportation to and from medical appointments, rides to food pantries, pharmacies and will grocery shop for those who cannot get out on their own. Russell is more than a volunteer; he is a friend, a voice, a friendly person to chat with. "Russell helps me feel connected with the community," said a homebound neighbor. When asked his opinion on volunteering, Russell said, "I am a quiet man, I do not do it for the recognition, I do it for others."

North Carolina

Melanie Bunn is founder of Bunn Consulting, a Dementia Training Specialist for Alzheimers North Carolina, and a faculty member in the Duke University School of Nursing Dementia Grand Challenge curriculum. She is a skilled and experienced nurse, having provided care for older people in a variety of settings, including retirement homes, nursing and assisted living facilities, hospitals and in-home as a gerontological nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, and staff nurse. Ms. Bunn received a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a Master of Science degree in Family Health Nursing at Clemson University, and a Post-Master's Certificate as a Gerontological Nurse Practitioner at Duke University.



Melanie Bunn

She gives over 200 engaging and interactive presentations annually to health professional groups, community groups, law enforcement, families, and other groups interested in addressing issues of the care and needs of older people and their families. She believes that the best way to improve lives of people with dementia and their families and other caregivers is through the combination of education and support for everyone in our communities. She has volunteered as an Alzheimer's Support Group Facilitator for over 25 years. In 2014, she was awarded the Dr. Ewald W. Busse Award by the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services Department of Health and Human Services. In 2012, she received the Potter's Hand award. In 2001, she was named Educator of the Year by the Eastern North Carolina Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. The North Carolina Nurses Association named her Gerontological Nurse of the Year in 1995.

North Dakota



Audrey Henke

Audrey Henke has been a volunteer Ombudsman at Elm Crest Manor (ECM), New Salem, North Dakota, since 1983. Residents look forward to her visits and her expertise in helping to resolve issues of concern. In addition to her Ombudsman duties, Audrey introduces new residents to the community through a bi-monthly news article in the local newspaper. She was instrumental in organizing

a quilt making project; the quilts are used by the residents and also given as door prizes for special events at ECM. She started a card recycling project, and thousands of new greeting cards have been created and sold with all proceeds going to the ECM activity department. Audrey also shares her singing talents with the residents. Through hospice training, Audrey learned the value of writing letters to families several months after the death of a loved one. She has done this for over 10 years on behalf of the staff, residents, and volunteers. Audrey is also active in her church (choir, organist, Sunday School teacher, and co-chair with her husband for St. Peter Lutheran Church 100th Celebration), and community (4-H leader and co-chair with her husband for the Oliver County's Centennial Celebration). Audrey is a valuable asset to the residents, the nursing facility, and her community. She exemplifies positive aging and giving back to the community. She has made a difference in the lives of many.

Ohio

John “Jack” Hughes of Springdale has logged 38,000 miles as a cyclist promoting health and fitness, while raising funds for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, the Fuller Center for Housing, Habitat for Humanity and others. At age 87, he continues to log as many as 100 miles per week on his bicycle for various causes. John has also supported health and hospice care at Maple Knoll Village, where he lives, with personal gifts that led to the creation of a cycling room and the Richard Neubauer, M.D. and John Hughes Hospice Center, and is active with several senior services organizations. John has volunteered with Meals on Wheels and with the Independent Transportation Network, which helps seniors and people with disabilities remain independent by providing them with a safe driver to medical appointments. He is also a life-long learner. After the age of 75, he took lessons and learned to play the trumpet, trombone, saxophone, clarinet, flute, and keyboard.



John “Jack” Hughes

Oklahoma



Trish Emig

Ms. Trish Emig had a lengthy and successful career in business. After she retired she discovered a passion for aging issues and made a goal to learn as much as she could about issues that Older Oklahomans confront on a daily basis. As part of this process, Ms. Emig was accepted into the Oklahoma Aging Advocacy Leadership Academy, an intensive ten-month training program sponsored by the Aging Services Division

of the Department of the Human Services, with one weekend a month dedicated to learning and exploring aging topics. During this timeframe Ms. Emig also became active in the health care debate and accompanied AARP-Oklahoma to Washington, D.C., where she had an opportunity to visit with the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation. Ms. Emig has served as a seven-year member of the Oklahoma Alliance on Aging and has twice been the Oklahoma Senate appointee on the Oklahoma State Council on Aging, where she currently serves as the Chairperson. In 2012, Ms. Emig received the Advocate of the Year award for outstanding efforts to advocate for older Oklahomans from 2012 Oklahoma Aging Conference. She also served as the 2013 State House Minority Leader Appointee to the Department of Human Services five-member, Citizens Advisory Panel on Aging Issues.

Ms. Emig sees her mission as ensuring that Oklahoma provides proven, exemplary strategies, services and support structures for its ballooning, aging population.

Oregon

Richard Weinman is a Professor Emeritus of Media Communication at Oregon State University. During his fifty years as a professor, Richard has had a concurrent career as a narrator, voice actor and broadcaster. Now, retired and forced to live in assisted living due to a disabling accident, he has begun a third career as a spokesman and advocate for seniors and the disabled in long-term care. He has produced a nationally recognized video documentary about his life in an ALF and writes a bi-monthly blog for AARP.com. He was invited to participate in the WHCOA regional meeting in April 2015 in Seattle, and the Oregon version of the WHCOA in May in Lebanon, OR. He also presented his video at the Consumer Voice national conference in 2014 in Washington, D.C, and the Oregon Gerontology Conference in April 2015, at Oregon State University. As a disabled American, Richard was one of the speakers at the commemoration by Benton County Oregon, his home county, of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the American Disabilities Act.



Richard Weinman

Richard cites the role of the Oregon Ombudsman's office for its support of his endeavors. The local, volunteer Ombudsman, Tom Giles, the State Ombudsman, David Berger, and his Deputy, Debbie Bouris, have helped Richard in obtaining his requested and due care. Under the former Oregon Ombudsman, Mary Jaeger, Richard was asked to speak at the 2013 Ombudsman State Conference. He has been asked to present the keynote address at the 2015 Washington Annual State Conference. Richard derived special honor by being chosen by Linn Benton Community College to be one of several elders, whose creative efforts in the arts and writing were recognized this spring at a public ceremony at the College.

Pennsylvania



William "Bill" Kelley

An enthusiastic volunteer with a servant's heart is one way to begin to describe William "Bill" Kelley. In his service as a Merchant Marine during World War II to his current role in advocating on behalf of long-term care residents, Bill lives his life with passion and enthusiasm on a daily basis. Prior to his volunteer work with the Ombudsman Program, however, Bill was faced with some challenges. After 53 years of marriage, including 10 years as a round the clock caregiver, Bill lost his wife to cancer. While still seeking to find renewed purpose in his life, Bill's children encouraged him to connect with his local Area Agency on Aging. It was there that he rekindled his passion for helping others and put to use his recent experiences in order to connect with long-term care residents.

As a Tier II trained Ombudsman, Bill plays an integral role in empowering and serving the needs of long-term care residents. At age 87, he easily relates to them as well as his colleagues on the Volunteer Ombudsman Task Force and the Lancaster County Office of Aging's Advisory Board. In addition, Bill recently served as a member of the Pennsylvania Department of Aging Volunteer Program Enhancement Initiative Advisory Team, providing both invaluable insight and infectious enthusiasm to the team. During 2015 National Volunteer Week, the Department of Aging recognized Bill's devotion to volunteerism, and through its YouTube channel, shared his powerful video testimonial describing how his thriving role as an Ombudsman provides enormous feelings of self-worth and purpose. For that, and many other reasons, we think Bill is fabulous!

Rhode Island

John O'Hara of Narragansett, Rhode Island, is 94 years old and an active volunteer in service to the RI community. John serves as the Vice-Chairman of the DEA Home and Community Care Advisory Committee that advises the Director of the RI Division of Elderly Affairs on issues related to elders in the community.

He is on the Board of the RI AARP Legislative Committee and serves as

the Judge Advocate and Legislative Officer for Disabled American Veterans Chapter One. John is the Community Outreach person for VFW Post 2812, and in that role, he travels to RI high schools to talk to students about World War II. John won the Department of Rhode Island Veterans of Foreign Wars "Patriotic Award" for his involvement with numerous councils and community organizations.



John O'Hara

In his visits to senior centers and nursing homes, John educates others on Social Security and Medicare because he believes that the senior citizens deserve to know what is happening around them. "I dedicate my life to volunteering for my wife and I want to stay active," said John. "I love helping others. This is what I love to do." After his wife of 55 years passed away in 2004, he said he was devastated and found volunteering as a way to dedicate his free time to make a difference in the community. He was awarded the AARP Rhode Island Volunteer of the Year Award in 2006. John previously worked with the United States Postal Service and as a portrait photographer. He is the proud father of six sons and 21 grandchildren.

South Carolina



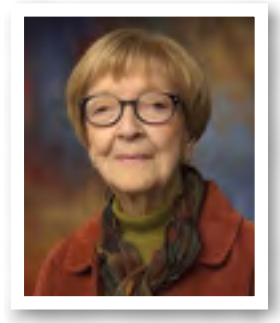
Margaret Brackett

Margaret Brackett, a 90+ year-old resident of Newberry, South Carolina, has been an active senior champion in the state for a number of years. Most recently, Ms. Brackett has been instrumental in advancing senior initiatives by serving as a member of the South Carolina Silver Haired Legislature, a senior mock legislation organization that, among other things, develops a list of annual priorities for review by legislators and policy makers. Previously, Ms. Brackett served ten years on the South Carolina Advisory Council on Aging, a group that meets quarterly to advise the Lieutenant Governor on pertinent senior matters.

In her hometown, Ms. Brackett hosts a radio show on WKDK-AM. She discusses a variety of relevant topics on the show, and she often has guests who discuss senior issues within South Carolina. Ms. Brackett also volunteers regularly at the senior center in Newberry. For her work over the years, she has been recognized as a Senior of the Day at South Carolina State House, in addition to many other awards and accolades. Ms. Brackett has a rich history of helping others, and we are forever grateful for the numerous contributions she has made—and continues to make—to better the lives of all seniors living in South Carolina.

South Dakota

A long life filled with music sets Jeannette Noel Beemer apart, along with a dedication to sharing her art with others through education and example. Born in 1918, she graduated in Highmore and received her degree in Music Education and Performance from Huron College in 1942. She began her career as a music teacher in South Dakota communities, briefly retiring to raise a family before returning to



Jeannette Noel Beemer

education and teaching music with the Pierre School District. She rose to the position of Director of the Music System for the Pierre schools, mentoring music educators and guiding students in a district that became known for the excellence of its music and arts programs.

During her time in Pierre, she was also a founding instructor of the Capital City Children's Chorus, contributed and was active in Pierre Players, served as a board member of the Short Grass Arts Council and still serves on the board of the Pierre Concert Series. She has been active as a musician in her church and is considered the "music librarian of Pierre," with an extensive and carefully indexed collection of music. She has volunteered at the South Dakota Cultural Center and has supported the arts throughout her life, in audiences, vocal groups, directing and through her donations, time and talents. Jeannette Beemer remains active in countless organizations, musical and otherwise, and continues to be an influence in the arts community. The number of lives she has touched with the arts through her teaching and her leadership in many organizations is beyond measure, a tremendous legacy.

Tennessee



Minnie Jo West

Ms. Minnie Jo West, 86, is a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, great-great-grandmother, seamstress, restaurateur, former First Lady of Ridgely, and dedicated member of the Ridgely Senior Center in Ridgely, TN, in Lake County. According to Senior Center Director Connie Hopper, Ms. Minnie is her #1 cheerleader, always positive, always inspiring others, and always making you laugh. Ms. Minnie is

involved in many of the Center activities, including the community garden and Senior Olympics Horseshoes. Ms. Minnie has been credited with saving the Senior Center when the Center lost a director in the late 1990s and was facing difficult financial times. She used her influence to raise the money and support needed to keep the Center doors open.

Ms. Minnie is also loved and respected in her community. Dressed in her Sunday best, she won the 2008 Dyer County Fair Senior Queen. In addition, she is the 2014 Hall of Fame honoree at The Bridge Ridgely Rehab Center. She is also an active member of The Red Hat Society and the Ridgely Women's Club, one of the most long-standing and respected groups in Ridgely. Ms. Minnie is also a member of the Lake County Historical Society. She has been a pillar of her community, as Mayor QT's wife (3 terms) and owner and operator of Minnie's Kitchen, which was famous for her Beans & Cornbread. Ms. Minnie grew up on a farm in Lake County with her two sisters. She enjoys sewing and knitting in her free time. Ms. Minnie had two daughters and a son. Her surviving daughter lives in Houston, TX, with her two grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

Texas

Chris Kyker is a native Texan who wouldn't let age slow her down one step throughout a lifelong journey to serve those around her, particularly the aging and disabilities population. Even today, if you want to walk with Chris Kyker, you need to have your best running shoes nearby. During her exemplary career she has walked with and served with many notable leaders of our state and nation to bring about positive change in countless lives. Her life's work has garnered many awards, including a Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2007 and numerous recognitions such as the Outstanding Alumnus of the Year from her alma mater, Abilene Christian University. Chris Kyker and her husband, the late Rex P. Kyker, PhD raised five children and they were blessed with seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren.



Chris Kyker

Professionally, Chris Kyker served as the Founding Director of the West Central Texas Area Agency on Aging (1974-1979), after which she served as the Founding Executive Director of the Texas Department on Aging (1979-1984). Chris then went on to serve as the Founding President and CEO of Disabilities Resources Inc. of Abilene, Texas. When Chris wasn't working, she found the time to share her talents in a variety of capacities for more than 32 volunteer organizations. The Chris Kyker Endowment for Seniors Fund was enacted by House Bill 610, 81st Legislature, Regular Session, 2009. This state fund is used to pay for aging population research directed by the Texas Legislative Committee on Aging. At 90 years old she is still as active as ever, serving as a member of the Texas Silver Haired Legislature, using her energy and knowledge to advocate for all Texans. Combining her great intelligence with great wit and a keen sense of humor, Chris Kyker walked the path of a social entrepreneur long before it was a concept, and she has truly transformed the landscape of aging and disability services in the Great State of Texas.

Utah



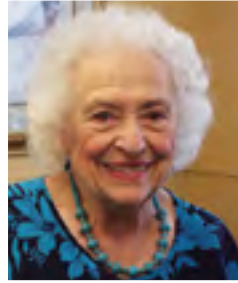
*Thelma Marie
Ferrin Tripp*

Thelma Marie Ferrin Tripp was born four miles east of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on June 3, 1914. In 1965 Thelma, her husband Stacy, and their two children moved to Utah. Thelma has been volunteering for the last 18 years with the RSVP—Retired Senior Volunteer Program. Her service time has included volunteering to read to children in the schools and at the local library as well as being a friendly visitor, checking on neighbors in need. She continues to

check on her neighbors to make sure they are doing well. According to Thelma, if by noon nobody has come to visit her, she drives to Golden Corral for lunch and finds someone to sit and talk with. When asked why she doesn't eat at the senior center she replied, "The senior centers are for old people." Thelma is a great example of service and compassion.

Vermont

Tireless! Energetic! Fundraiser extraordinaire! These are the words used to describe Vermont's fabulous 88-year-old senior Maria Contro. For 20 years, Maria has been an RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteers Program) volunteer and is a pioneer of the Springfield, VT, Meals on Wheels program. She has spent the last 16 years delivering meals, acting as hostess at the congregate meal site, and serving as both Board Treasurer and Advisory Board Chairman. Her wholehearted commitment to the program is reflected in her recruitment of over 30 volunteers for the Meals on Wheels program, regular meetings with local businesses to ask for support and educating the community on the program's impact on local seniors. Maria raises hundreds of dollars annually by selling poinsettias in December, Easter lilies in the spring, and ads for a place mat campaign. She has often done up to 100 handwritten thank you notes after a fundraiser. Vermonters can be proud of and grateful to Maria for helping find ways to sustain and grow the Meals on Wheels Program. When she's not making sure her fellow seniors have something to eat, this Springfield Senior Center Songster entertains nursing home residents with her singing and drumming. For her many contributions, Maria received the Vermont Governor's Community Service Award in 2009.



Maria Contro

Virginia



Richard W. Lindsay

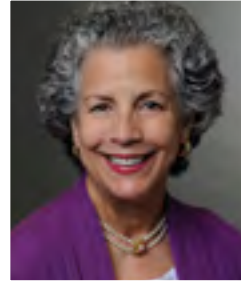
The Commonwealth of Virginia has been blessed with the presence and ongoing commitment of Richard W. Lindsay, M.D. He graduated from Cornell and the New York Medical College in the mid-60s and, after two years as a Major in the United States Army Medical Corps, he joined the faculty of the University of Virginia (UVA) in 1969. During his six decades of service, Dr. Lindsay has emerged as an

innovator in the Commonwealth's aging network. He was awarded one of the seven original geriatric academic awards from the National Institute of Aging and continued his academic career as the Head of the Geriatrics section at UVA from 1977 until his retirement in 1999. He has been appointed as an advisor to eight Governors and served as a delegate to three White House Conferences on Aging.

He is the recipient of numerous awards based on his accomplishments in continuing education, caregiving, and professional development. He is a committed caregiver himself and recently was honored for his efforts by the creation of the Lindsay Institute for Innovations in Caregiving. His lifetime commitment to healthy aging is best exemplified by his accomplishments as a champion skier, virtuoso trumpet player, and as an avid fly fisherman. He plays a wicked game of tennis, is a dyed in the wool fan of the UVA Cavaliers, and has three children and four grandchildren, all assuring that he continues his active and healthy lifestyle.

Washington

When Myriam Marquez was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease at age 62, she made a commitment to be proactive. She has four children and seven grandchildren and decided to do everything she could in the effort to find a cure. In her professional life, Myriam had been a public defender and practicing attorney, but in leaving that life behind she didn't retire from life or advocating on behalf of others. After diagnosis, she put her energies towards doing things she had always wanted to do—like traveling to India and Peru and becoming active in local, state and national efforts to raise awareness about the disease. Locally, Myriam volunteers as a peer advisor offering encouragement and support to newly-diagnosed individuals. She participates in her community by presenting at forums focused on early stage issues and in Greenwood Senior Center's Dementia-Friendly Neighborhoods Initiative. Myriam is actively involved in the early-stage Zoo Walk and in the Arts in the Park programs with Dementia-Friendly Recreation. She is a supporter and participant in events and programs under the banner of 'momentia,' a Seattle-based collaborative movement of organizations and community members transforming what it means to live with dementia in community—changing the story from one of fear and isolation, to one of hope and connection. She is one of the state's most admired and effective volunteer leaders.



Myriam Marquez

Myriam is an active member of the Alzheimer's Disease Working Group, developing the first Alzheimer's disease plan for Washington State, and is the first person with Alzheimer's disease to serve on the state's Alzheimer's Association Chapter Board of Directors. On the national level, Myriam recently completed a one-year term as a member of the Association's National Early Stage Advisory Group, serves as the Association's Ambassador to Senator Patty Murray, and has recently shared insights at the Alzheimer's Association's National Leadership Summit, the National Advocacy Forum in April 2013, and the White House Conference on Aging. Myriam's story and the eloquence with which she shares it have been highlighted on several occasions in broadcast and print media. While one of Myriam's early goals upon diagnosis was to help put a "face" to the disease, she has accomplished so much more—in the process, she has become a role model and true inspiration to local, state, and national communities on how to live well with dementia.

West Virginia



Jake Hatcher

Jake Hatcher, 97, lives a life that is a true reflection of committed community service. He volunteers as a liaison for seniors at the Thorn Street Nutrition site in Bluefield. His work helps support the staff and participants of the site on a daily basis. From the collection of canned food, the distribution of food to seniors and community pantries, and participation in many activities including line dancing, Mr. Hatcher is a man in

motion. Mr. Hatcher also makes significant contributions by writing advocacy letters on behalf of seniors to various organizations to generate additional funding and services. In addition, Mr. Hatcher shares his artistic talents with the community. He paints Angels on rocks, which are made into jewelry pieces. These rocks and pieces are on display at several community businesses. All monies generated by the sale of the jewelry are given to the Salvation Army of which Mr. Hatcher is a member of the Board of Directors.

Having served in the Navy during WW II as Chief Torpedo Man on the USS Stanley, Mr. Hatcher earned 10 battle stars and was hit by a Japanese Kamikaze plane at Okinawa. He received a commendation from Admiral Nemitz and a Presidential Unit Citation for his service during that time. He served in the Korean War on the USS Orleck as a Gun Control Officer. He also received a commendation from Admiral Clark. Mr. Hatcher has worked as a social worker for the Department of Health and Human Resources and as a real estate agent in Mercer County, West Virginia. Jake Hatcher's "can-do" attitude and always positive spirit is a true gift to the community and to the state of West Virginia.

Image: Eric DiNovo, courtesy Bluefield Daily Telegraph.

Wisconsin

Ms. Barbara Bechtel has been actively serving the Milwaukee County community as a public health professional and volunteer for over 60 years, and when we hear the word fabulous, we can't help but think of Barbara! As a retired public health nurse and engaged community volunteer, Barbara is keenly aware of the needs of older people. She was appointed to the Milwaukee County Commission on Aging, serving as Chair from 2006–2012. She remains an



Barbara Bechtel

active and engaged participant in the Commission's Advocacy Committee, Nutrition Council, Advisory Council and Intergenerational Council. In 2012, she was also appointed by the Governor to the Board on Aging and Long-Term Care where she speaks before the Wisconsin Senate to advocate for the needs of seniors. With nearly 50,000 volunteer hours to her credit, Barbara brings a wealth of expertise and knowledge, as well as her enthusiastic and good natured personality to everything she does for the Commission, for the older people of Milwaukee County and the state as a whole. All of her efforts are centered on what is best for older adults and our community; we are so fortunate to have such a dedicated and skilled advocate leading the way.

Barbara has volunteered in numerous different capacities throughout our community such as the Brown Deer Public Library, the Brown Deer Historical Society, The North Shore Board of Health, Horizon Home Care and Hospice, the Brown Deer Women's Club and Brown Deer Senior Citizen's Club. One of Barbara's favorite places to volunteer, as well as place to hang out, is at the senior dining site located in Brown Deer. Barbara has been faithfully serving meals at the Lois and Tom Dolan Community Center and bringing smiles to people's faces since 1998. Through her volunteer service at the dining site, she has helped build a sense of community and foster an environment that encourages participation and friendship. Barbara Bechtel is the definition of a Fabulous Older Person!

Wyoming



Merrilyn Shanebrook

Merrilyn Shanebrook is a prime example of a selfless person who is always available to assist her community and those individuals who need help. Merrilyn worked for many years as an EMT and then at Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County, assisting patients with their Medicaid/Medicare billing. Merrilyn still does this as a volunteer for local senior citizens and people with disabilities. Merrilyn has served on the Board of Directors for Golden Hour Senior Center for eight years and as President of the Board for six years. Merrilyn kept the senior center afloat during a difficult time when there were no employees available to work. She cooked lunch, cleaned the dining room and did dishes until positions were filled. At the same time, as president of the board, she provided fiscal assistance to our center by helping with grant writing and presentations to our funders at commissioner and state meetings. When the center didn't have a director, Merrilyn provided management to the center's dozen employees. Merrilyn is the first to volunteer when anyone needs a helping hand. She helps the monthly "Breakfast Club" by arriving at 6:00 am to cook a public breakfast each month, and if the center has a monthly dinner and dance that same evening, she stays late to help the staff clean. All this at 72 years old—she puts people half her age to shame!

Merrilyn was also on the board for the Green River United Methodist Church for many years. This past year, as the church closed their doors for the final time, she spent countless hours to help in the sale of their facility and distribution of their property. It was heartbreaking for Merrilyn to see her beloved church dissolve, but as usual, she faced this sad time with courage and commitment to a job well done. The Hemmingway quote "Courage is grace under pressure" describes Merrilyn to a T. Merrilyn exudes a humble and approachable manner while conveying strength of mind, high moral fiber and backbone. She is steadfast in her devotion and loyalty to her community, family and friends, and is a true inspiration to all that know her. Merrilyn Shanebrook is a true depiction of excellence in Wyoming!

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Celebrating 50 Years



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