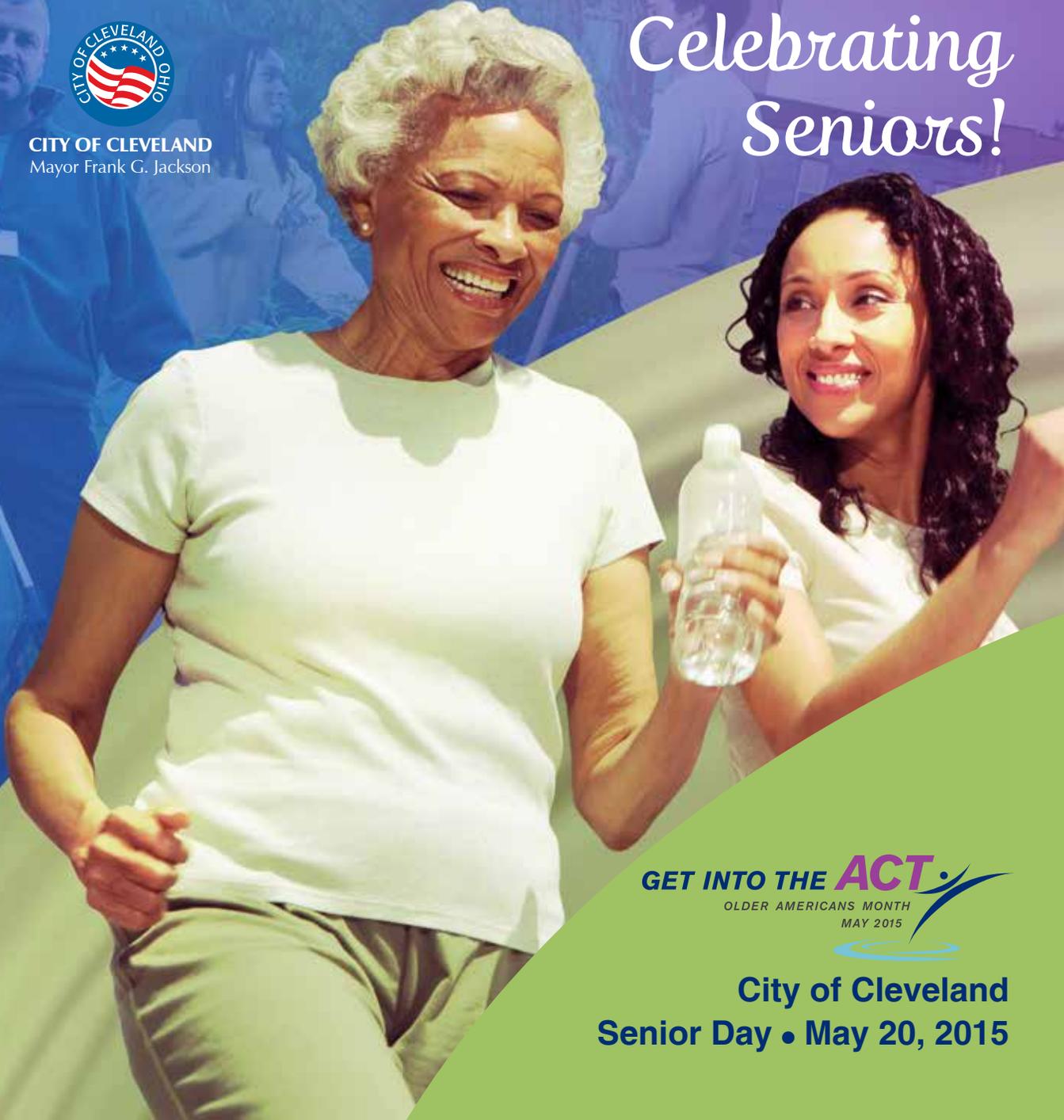




CITY OF CLEVELAND
Mayor Frank G. Jackson

Celebrating Seniors!



GET INTO THE ACT.
OLDER AMERICANS MONTH
MAY 2015



City of Cleveland
Senior Day • May 20, 2015

Celebrating Our Cleveland Seniors!

Every year during the month of May, the nation celebrates Older Americans Month in recognition of the many contributions older adults have made to the community. The City of Cleveland proudly joins the Administration for Community Living in this celebration. This is the 26th year we will honor Cleveland Seniors at Senior Day.

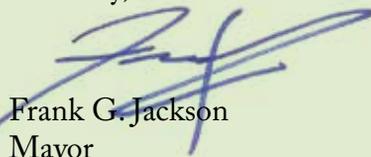
The 2015 theme for Older Americans Month is “Get into the Act.” With the White House Conference on Aging this summer this is a good time for seniors to “Get into the Act” and voice their opinions on the needs of the rapidly growing population of older adults in America.

Today, 17 special seniors will be recognized for the contributions they have made to improve the lives of others. These individuals represent thousands of local seniors who devote their time and talent to make Cleveland a great place to live, raise a family and grow old. I congratulate those seniors being honored here today.



On behalf of the people of Cleveland, I am honored to recognize older adults in our community for their knowledge, experience, dedication, diversity and sacrifice, all of which help to make Cleveland a great city.

Sincerely,


Frank G. Jackson
Mayor

Department of Aging • Our Mission

The Cleveland Department of Aging is committed to ensuring Cleveland is an elder friendly community by enhancing the quality of life for Cleveland seniors through advocacy, planning, service coordination and the delivery of needed services.

Our Team

Jane E. Fumich, Director

Eric Anderson, Home Maintenance Aide, Chore Program

Juanita Bradley Douglas, Senior Clerk

Adam Cisler, Aging Services Administrator, Economic Security

Norman Claxton, Home Maintenance Aide, Chore Program

Portia Cofield, Student Intern

Tony Dial, Geriatric Outreach Worker

Judy Drost, Geriatric Outreach Worker

Jakimah Dye, Project Coordinator, Senior Initiative

Larry Edwards, Geriatric Outreach Worker

Omayra Feliciano, Supervisor Administrative Services

Ira Friedrich, Volunteer, Economic Security

William Gant, Project Director, Cleveland Care Calls

Katie Gedeon, Student Intern

Susan Hijjawi, Project Coordinator, Homeless Services for Seniors

Tanesha Hunter, Aging Services Admin., Information and Assistance

Angela Johnson, Geriatric Outreach Worker

Kathy Johnson, Geriatric Outreach Worker

Theresa Kirby, Intake Specialist

Mary McNamara, Administrative Manager

Alissa Moore, Geriatric Outreach Worker

Emily Muttillio, Project Coordinator

Gloria Nacion, Grants Administrator

Raford Odom, Administrative Manager

Bess Oliver, AARP Sr. Community Services Employment Program

Justin Parker, Student Intern

Lois Quarles, Volunteer, Access Your Benefits

Jennifer Rosich, Chore Services Coordinator

Forriest Russell, Home Maintenance Aide, Chore Program

Gladys Soto, Geriatric Outreach Worker

Loretta Stiles, Aging Services Administrator, Options Counseling

Reggie Williams, Geriatric Outreach Worker

Norma Wise, AARP Sr. Community Services Employment Program



The Department of Aging has an **Advisory Council**, a diverse group of individuals who represent the concerns of Cleveland seniors and adults with disabilities. The purposes of the Advisory Council are to: advise the Director of Aging on issues of importance to older persons and adults with disabilities in Cleveland; provide input on programs and long term planning; advocate on behalf of Cleveland's older population and adults with disabilities; and increase awareness of the abilities of adults living with a disability.

Services and Programs

Bed Bug Assistance Program – This program helps seniors and adults with disabilities, on a limited income, with the extermination of bed bugs in their homes.

Benefits Assistance – Benefits Assistance provides seniors and adults with disabilities help in securing benefits to meet their financial and health needs. The free confidential Benefits CheckUp program is used. One on one assistance to enroll in benefits is provided. Benefits Assistance is a service of the Cleveland Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC).

Cell Phone Recycling – The Cleveland Department of Aging is participating in a program of the National Council on Aging and Cellular Recycler to collect old cell phones, which are sold, and the proceeds support senior programs. This initiative is good for seniors and is good for the environment.

Chore Services – Chore services may include: general house cleaning, lawn mowing, leaf raking, snow shoveling, simple home repairs and installation of smoke detectors.

Cleveland Care Calls – Cleveland Care Calls is an automated telephone reassurance system used to check on the well-being of Cleveland seniors.

Cleveland Disability Awareness – The Cleveland Department of Aging, in collaboration with other departments and agencies, celebrates disability awareness with programs highlighting abilities.

Cleveland Senior Day – Senior Day is a citywide celebration of Cleveland's older citizens, which includes a senior information fair, entertainment, lunch and recognition of outstanding contributing seniors.

Services and Programs

Cleveland Senior Walk – The Cleveland Department of Aging sponsors the Cleveland Senior Walk in partnership with the Cleveland Department of Public Health, the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging, the YMCA and MetroHealth.

Cleveland Tree Assistance Program for Seniors – This program assists Cleveland seniors and adults with disabilities with removing and trimming hazardous trees on their property.

Courtesy Cupboard – This service, a collaboration between the Department of Aging and the Cleveland Food Bank, provides clients in need with a small supply of shelf ready emergency food to help tide them over until a longer term plan for accessing food is established.

Economic Security for Cleveland Seniors – This program helps seniors to improve their economic situations. Core services, provided through a team of partner agencies, include: assistance with public benefits, housing, employment, emergency assistance, financial counseling, legal assistance, health and mental health services, supportive and aging network services and kinship family support. Economic case management and specialized service coordination is a service of the Cleveland ADRC.

Homeless Prevention Services for Seniors – The Cleveland Department of Aging provides case management for persons 60 years of age and older and adults with disabilities 50 years of age and older who are at risk of homelessness to help them maintain housing.

Information and Assistance (I&A) – Provides current and unbiased information on services that support independence and links seniors and adults with disabilities to organizations that can help. I&A is a service of the Cleveland ADRC.

Options Counseling – Provides guidance to seniors and adults with disabilities, family members, caregivers and/or significant others about community services and support to fit one's needs and preferences in decision making about long term support options. Options Counseling is a service of the Cleveland ADRC.

Outreach Activities – Department staff attend community meetings, senior fairs, health fairs, and festivals to present and to distribute literature about programs and services available for older persons. The Cleveland Department of Aging can be found on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

Services and Programs

Senior Homeowner Assistance Program – Provides grants to low-income seniors and adults with disabilities who own and reside in homes needing critical health safety or maintenance repairs. Typical repairs include: roof replacement, major electrical work, major plumbing work, repair or replacing the front and/or back steps, porch repairs, and the installation of ramps.

Senior Guest House – Located on the campus of Fairhill Partners, this home like setting for persons 60 years of age and older provides a safe environment for seniors in residential crises or unsafe living conditions. This is a collaborative project of Fairhill Partners and the Cleveland Department of Aging.

Senior Initiative – The goals of the Senior Initiative are to assist Cleveland seniors and adults with disabilities with home repair, to prevent them from falling victim to predatory lenders or scam contractors, and to help them avoid citation for housing violations. This initiative is a cooperative effort of the Departments of Aging, Building and Housing, Community Development, Public Health and Law.

Senior Power – A program designed to increase knowledge and awareness among older persons in the areas of crime prevention, fire hazards, fire and fall prevention, emergency services, and programs for the elderly. The program is a collaboration between the Departments of Public Safety and Aging.

Senior Transportation – Provides transportation services to take seniors to medical appointments and errands through collaboration with the Senior Transportation Connection, Cleveland City Council and the Departments of Community Development and Aging.

Supportive Services – Helps older persons and adults with disabilities access the services, benefits and programs available to them. Examples include, but are not limited to: assisting seniors with utilities that have been or are about to be disconnected, assistance in accessing food, housing, homemaker services, personal care assistance, chore services, and home repair and maintenance services.

Willie Jones

Mr. Willie Jones was born August 31, 1935 in Marion, Alabama to parents Andrew W. Jones Sr. and Roberta L. Jones who moved to Cleveland, Ohio in 1945. He married Esther Owens in 1954 and they were blessed with a son Roland and a daughter, Cheryl. He and his wife recently celebrated 60 years of marriage.

Willie graduated from John Adams High School where he participated in track, football and The Cleveland Plain Dealer Golden Gloves. He went on to attend Cuyahoga Community College. Mr. Jones retired from the Cleveland Electrical Illuminating Company in 1993 with over 28 years of service. He is a licensed residential appraiser and a member of the National Association of Independent Fee Appraisers and the National Residential Appraisal Institute. He is the former president of the Cleveland Chapter of the NAIFA.

Mr. Jones is extremely involved within his community. He participates in the Lee-Seville Homeowners Association, Lee-Seville-Miles Citizens Council and presently serves on the Youth, Housing and Annual Meeting committees. He has been an active member of the Highview/ Myrtle Street Club for 54 years. Mr. Jones served as Team Sports Director at the Canaan Education Enrichment Center and started peewee football

and little league baseball teams in the area. Through the Lee-Harvard-Seville-Miles Strategic Plan, he coordinated the summer baseball program for boys and girls ages 4-12. In 2004, he applied for and received a grant from Neighborhood Connections that helped to provide supplies and equipment for the more than one hundred and fifty participants.

Mr. Jones has been honored with the Urban League, Ohio Bell and Cleveland Board of Education "Family of the Year" award, the United Area Citizens Association "Good Neighbor" award, the Lee-Harvard Times Neighborhood Journal "Lifetime Achievement" award and the Harvard Community Service award. In 2013, he received the 4th District Police Community Relations award for community service. Mr. Jones has been an active member of the Canaan Missionary Baptist Church for over 60 years presently serving on the Trustee Board.

In his free time he enjoys sports, live theatre and traveling. When asked what he loves most about Cleveland, he believes it is the community's willingness to help one another. Willie states, "If I can help somebody as I travel along, then my living shall not be in vain."

City of Cleveland | Senior Day 2015



Celebrate Dedication!

Tommy Daniels

Mr. Tommy Daniels was born in Panama City, Florida, moving to Cleveland in 1962 where he met and married his loving wife Eva. This spring they will be celebrating their 52nd wedding anniversary. Together they raised four children and have 12 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

He is a 1961 graduate of Rosenwald High School. After nearly 25 years of service as an industrial worker, he retired from Cuyahoga Falls Stamping. Although retired, he continues to serve his community as a mentor, sponsor and friend to those in need. He also remains a devoted and supportive patriarch of his loving family.

Tommy is devoted to his family, friends and neighborhood and loves to improve the safety and quality of life for the residents within his community. He diligently volunteers his time to those who are unable to do outdoor chores such as cutting grass, yard work and cleaning. He is committed to inspiring those around him to work together and be proud of their community by supporting one another.

In his spare time Tommy enjoys going fishing, doing auto mechanics and watching football. He also loves spending time with his family and friends. When asked what he loves most about the city of Cleveland Tommy states, "The people here are special." He believes the community, opportunity and friendships are what makes Cleveland so special.

City of Cleveland | Senior Day 2015



Celebrate Friendship!

Burt Saltzman

Mr. Burt Saltzman is a lifelong resident of the city of Cleveland, born on April 20, 1937. He has been married to his loving wife Judy for over 50 years and together they have four children, 12 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Burt attended Cleveland Heights High School and graduated from Ohio State University in 1959 with a degree in Accounting. After college, he ultimately decided to join the Saltzman family business stating, "I love people, and I realized I didn't want to sit behind a desk for the rest of my life." Known to many as Mr. Dave, Burt is the owner of Dave's Supermarket, first opened 90 years ago by his grandfather Alex. Dave's, one of the most valued Cleveland businesses, now has a total of 13 stores in Northeast Ohio. Burt is a business man unlike any other who believes working with people on Payne Avenue is where he belongs.

Revered for his generosity and hands on approach within the community, Mr. Saltzman does anything he can to give back to the people of Cleveland. He has served on the Board of

Frontline Services, MetroHealth Foundation and Cleveland Food Dealers. Speaking to local youth at school functions and supporting neighborhood events and fundraisers are only the beginning of his charitable endeavors. His unwavering compassion is personified by his endless donations to non-profit organizations such as the Salvation Army, Head Start and Cleveland Hunger Centers. Burt, a community hero, has dedicated his life not only to his store but also to the customers he serves.

In the little spare time Mr. Saltzman has away from Payne Avenue, he enjoys being with his family, attending Cleveland Cavaliers games and going to the theater. When asked what he loves most about the city of Cleveland, he says it is the community and growth that he has been lucky enough to experience. Burt states, "When you've been a part of a community for so long you really become a part of them and they become a part of you."

City of Cleveland | Senior Day 2015



Celebrate Compassion!

Dolores Cammon

Ms. Dolores Cammon was born in Cleveland, Ohio on June 2, 1932 to the late Macon and Lacy Clark. She is a lifelong resident of the city of Cleveland and the loving mother of Marsha, Shelia, Terri, Bradford, Eric and the late Herbert and Sandra. Dolores has seven grandchildren, 18 great grandchildren, and five great great grandchildren.

Ms. Cammon attended Woolridge Elementary School, Kennard Junior High School and graduated from Central High School. Dolores worked for the Cleveland Public School system as a Teacher's Assistant and retired in 1980.

Dolores feels very committed to serving her family, community and church because she loves people. She has been the Resident Council President of her residence, Jaelot Apartments, for the past 15 years. At Jaelot, Ms. Cammon organizes the Christmas light tours, plans the trips to Amish country and helps distribute holiday baskets. She oversees all Jaelot council meetings and generously volunteers her time within the building. Dolores

is also a member of the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party Central Committee for Ward 4 and a proud member of Providence Baptist Church. At Providence, she is a Ministry Leader, Pastor Prayer partner, member of the Senior Citizen Fellowship and serves hot meals to the community every fourth Saturday.

In her spare time, Dolores, an avid Cleveland Cavaliers fan, enjoys watching all of their games and spending time with her close knit family. When asked what she loves most about the city of Cleveland, Ms. Cammon states, "The city's progression." She believes the city never truly stands still and its leaders, specifically Councilman Kenneth Johnson, are dedicated, generous and caring.

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Celebrate Service!

Mildred Cephus

Ms. Mildred Cephus is delighted to be a lifelong resident of Cleveland, Ohio. Born one of 11 children, she is a part of a very large close knit family consisting of eight girls and three boys. She is the loving mother of one son and one daughter as well as a caring grandmother of two grandsons and one great grandson.

Mildred graduated from Central High School in Cleveland and attended college at Wilburforce University and Cleveland State University. She dedicated her career to counseling at MetroHealth Medical Center and retired after 32 years.

She is devoted to improving the community she loves so dearly by participating in numerous charitable organizations. Mildred is the President of the Central Area Community Organization, a Trustee on the Burten, Bell, Carr Community Development Corporation Board and President of the Garden Club. The work Mildred is most passionate about is with Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity. Within this organization she sits on the Board of Volunteers and Family

Selection Committee where she is able to help individuals within the community obtain stabilized and revitalized housing. Mildred is a dedicated member of Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church, utilizing what she learns there in her life and community.

In her free time, Mildred enjoys gardening, going to the theater and participating in activities within her Travel and Family Clubs. When asked what she loves most about her city she states, "People need to stop and take a look at what is around them," as she believes the beauty and culture the city of Cleveland has to offer are what makes the city so beloved.

City of Cleveland | Senior Day 2015



Celebrate Devotion!

Joyce Pratt

Mrs. Joyce Pratt was born in Little Rock Arkansas in 1949 and moved to Cleveland in 1953 at the age of four. She married her husband, Allen Pratt, on August 11, 1970. Together they have four children, Alphonz, Jade, Allen Jr., and Andre, and five grandchildren.

Joyce attended Kent State University and graduated in 1972 with a degree in Special Education. She later went on to obtain her degree in Social Work and utilized her education to aid and advocate for numerous groups of individuals including the elderly, youth and the disabled.

Mrs. Pratt currently works for the Elderly Housing Development and Operations Corporation with the William W. Winpisinger Apartments to ensure affordable housing, safety, security and a high quality of life for all seniors.

Joyce is very passionate about everything she does in the community and in life. She is the President of the Larchmere Community Association and Executive Precinct Committee person for Ward 6. Mrs. Pratt sits on the Advisory Committee for Neighborhood Leadership and the Juvenile

Detention Center, and is also on the Shaker Square Area Development Corporation board. She is the Vice President of Hubs and Spokes, a grass roots organization that advocates for community residents, and received the Citizens of Cleveland award in 2002 for her work with children and families. Joyce's most inspiring cause in the community is the nonprofit empowerment group she founded entitled Discovering the Beauty Within. The group, which she facilitates, motivates young women to respect themselves, find their worth and build their self-esteem. Her other mission is to reinvent the word Senior in a more positive light. For her, the word Senior truly stands for Strong, Empowered, Navigator, Inspiring, Opportunity and Reinvention.

In her free time, Joyce loves to dance, travel, and empower those around her. Upon retirement she hopes to write her life story in Hawaii. When asked what she enjoys most about Cleveland, Joyce quickly states, "The community's great capacity for growth." She loves witnessing Cleveland's constant evolution and vitality.

City of Cleveland | Senior Day 2015



Celebrate Passion!

Harry E. Cooke III

Mr. Harry E. Cooke III was born on October 10, 1948 in Abington, Pennsylvania. Mr. Cooke came to Cleveland in 1972 and has been a proud resident for over 40 years. He is married to his loving wife Roberta and has three children Harry, Jarrod and Cesseli, 11 grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Harry attended Cheyney State College and joined the Ohio National Guard in 1978. In the National Guard, he served as a Mess Hall Sargent. He worked as a Supervising Health Inspector at the City of Cleveland Health Department for 35 years. He retired from the City of Cleveland in 2007.

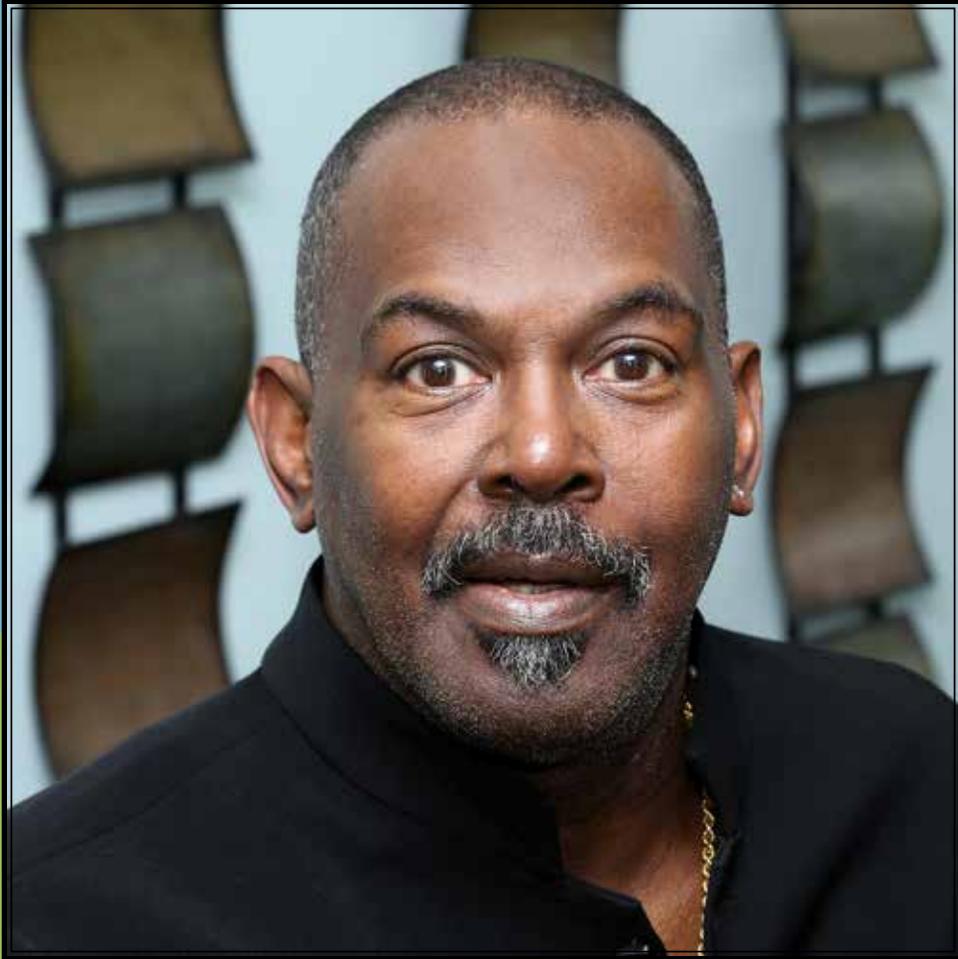
Mr. Cooke is an ambitious man dedicated to numerous organizations throughout the community including his church, Zion Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. He is a Deacon and Trustee within the church and is the President of the Male Chorus, Director of Recreation, and President of the Caring and Sharing Ministry. Harry is a Precinct Committeeman for Ward 7, Executive Committee member for the Democratic

Party, President and Founder of the Hough Heights Street Club and a 33rd Degree Mason of Prince Hall Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.

Of all his charitable endeavors, the one closest to his heart is the Caring Individuals Stepping Out Against Breast Cancer walk he started in 2007. After his mother's battle with breast cancer, Harry promised to give back to the cause and the community. Each year over 800 people come together to raise money in the fight against breast cancer and all proceeds are donated to the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

In his spare time, Harry enjoys fishing, golfing, gardening and spending time with his wife. When asked what he loves most about Cleveland he states, "The community in which I live in." The home, family, and life he has built in this city are what he cherishes most.

City of Cleveland | Senior Day 2015



Celebrate Ambition!

Riley Parker

Mr. Riley Parker was born in Cleveland on December 10, 1951 and is a lifelong resident of the city. He has been married to his loving wife Denise for 18 years and has two children and three step children.

Riley graduated from East High School and went on to attend Central State University. He began his career with the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA) in 1974 where he worked as an operator, union official and government liaison before retiring in 2012, after 38 years of dedicated service.

Riley is a caring community activist devoted to enhancing the lives of those around him. He sits on the Board of the Collinwood Nottingham Villages Development Corporation, a nonprofit community organization that provides housing redevelopment, home repair assistance and community engagement. He also volunteers at the Collinwood Recreation Center and oversees the safety and security of the youth who exercise at the facility. Mr. Parker is committed to the growth

and prosperity of his community and to staying engaged.

In his free time he loves Lake Erie fishing and spending time with his family. When asked what he loves most about living in the city of Cleveland he states, "It's truly a nice place to grow up." Riley believes the leadership and growth of the community are what make Cleveland such a great city.

City of Cleveland | Senior Day 2015



Celebrate Kindheartedness!

Alice L. Bonner

Ms. Alice L. Bonner is a proud lifelong resident of Cleveland. Her father moved to Cleveland in 1927 from Alabama in search of a new start and was kindly greeted with endless opportunities. A lifetime supporter of Cleveland Public Schools, Alice contributes the good fortune she has experienced throughout her life to the education she received in the city.

Alice earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Education from Kent State University and worked diligently as a Special Education teacher within the Cleveland Public School District for 30 years. She retired from teaching in 1997.

After retiring, she began a philanthropic project named "Reclaiming Glenville." The goal of the project was to keep Lakeview Road free of litter from Garrett Square to St. Clair Avenue. The reason behind the project was to make Glenville a historic and beautiful place again. Alice wanted the children to be able to walk to school on clean roads and for residents to once again take pride in their neighborhood. She stated, "If you want something

done, you have to do it yourself," and Alice did just that. She has removed litter off the streets for the past 12 years and now has support from other residents. During the summer Lakeview Road is completely clear of litter, which she describes as truly heartwarming.

In her free time Alice enjoys gardening and sewing decorative pillows. When asked what she loves most about the city of Cleveland, Alice believes it is the opportunities the city gives people to succeed, which is something she wishes for everyone. Out of all the cities Alice has seen, Cleveland is the only one that has her heart.

City of Cleveland | Senior Day 2015



Celebrate Success!

Ida Respress

Mrs. Ida Respress, one of ten children, was born in Tchula, Mississippi and moved to Cleveland at the age of seven. Her father, a Pastor, believed Cleveland would hold a better future for his family. On June 1, 1957, Ida married Alton Respress at the New Light Baptist Church. She has four children, Alton Jr, Anthony, Michael, and Cynthia; seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Ida worked 35 years at Swarsky Jewelers before illness left her unable to work. She credits her faith in helping her make it through her illness saying, “Without my faith I would not be here today.”

Ida has been extremely involved with the church for over 40 years and is currently a member of the First Greater New Zion Baptist Church. Within the Church she is the Vice President of the Ministry and an active member within the couples, women’s, prison and youth ministries. Ida is also the teacher of the Senior Sunday School class.

Mrs. Respress’s faith heavily impacts her desire to aid those who are less fortunate. She is the President of the Ablewhite Street Club, an

organization that keeps neighborhood streets clean, visits the sick, makes donations, attends city council meetings and gives scholarships for college bound youth. She is also a part of the Reach Out and Touch Initiative, which partners with John Adams High School and Andrew J. Rickoff Elementary School, to welcome students back for the new year and raise funds for students who are in need. Ida enjoys donating to numerous charities including the Disabled Veterans, Feed the Children, St Jude’s Hospital, World Vision and The City Mission.

In her spare time, Ida loves reading the Bible, walking at her local senior center, and staying informed on local issues. When asked what she loves most about Cleveland, Ida states, “The city’s endless versatility, diversity and opportunity.”

City of Cleveland | Senior Day 2015



Celebrate Belief!

Lillie Cooper

Mrs. Lillie Mae Washington Cooper was born July 8, 1937 in Washington D.C. In 1937 Lillie moved to Twiggs County, Georgia and then spent many years living with relatives while her mother worked in New York City. She lived in Washington D.C., New York City and Toledo before moving to Cleveland in 1943.

In 1955, Lillie married Joseph Rudolph Cooper; they remained married until his death on May 26, 1993. They are the parents of Jonathan, Priscilla, Gerald and Kevin. She is the proud grandmother of Nia, John, Jordan, Kevin Jr, Mariah and Antoinease.

Lillie graduated from John Hay High School and attended Kent State University, Baldwin Wallace, and Cuyahoga Community College. She joined the Saint Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church where she was the Secretary of the Lay Organization, a member of the choir and a Sunday School Superintendent. Lillie worked at Saint Luke's Hospital, the May Company, Central National Bank, and retired from Sears Roebuck

and Company.

Lillie is a member of the Department of Aging's Advisory Council for Ward 11. She has been an active volunteer in many of the Cleveland Public Schools including, Brooklawn Elementary, Carl F. Shuler Junior High, Whitney Young Junior High, John Marshall High School and the Law and Public Service Magnet High School. She has worked as a Polls Booth Official for 50 years and is a member of the Ward 11 Democratic Club, Precinct Committee and Executive Committee. She is also a member of the West Park Community Coalition and active with the seniors at the West Park Salvation Army.

In her free time, Lillie loves to travel and has traveled to all 50 States, Africa, Canada, the Caribbean, Europe and Mexico. She also loves to spend time with her family and play Sudoku and Scrabble. Lillie has lived in the same home, on the Westside of Cleveland, since 1958. She states what she loves most about Cleveland are the people and the community.

City of Cleveland | Senior Day 2015



Celebrate Peace!

Noreen Malecki

Mrs. Noreen Malecki was born on November 9, 1946 in the Slavic Village neighborhood of Cleveland. She is married to her husband Robert Malecki and has seven children, 18 grandchildren, and will be welcoming her seventh great-grandchild this summer.

Noreen graduated from South High School in Cleveland and went on to live in rural Tennessee and the suburbs of Columbus. Although she is now retired, Noreen worked for the Cleveland Advanced Manufacturing Program's Electronic Commerce Resource Division, Patel Memorial Institute, Cleveland State University's Chemical Engineering Department, as well as several non-profit organizations.

Mrs. Malecki is a founding member of the East 63rd Street Block Club, and has been the treasurer since its formation. Initially created to combat crime on her street, Noreen and the block club have worked with neighbors and the 4th District Police to make their neighborhood a safer and more comfortable place to live. The Block Club's

mission is to unite the community, work together and improve relations between youth and the elderly to make the neighborhood "a nice place to live." For the last eight years they have hosted an annual street clean-up, organized by Mrs. Malecki, and had over 100 volunteers. They also give out over 100 Halloween bags each year with school supplies, gloves, food, and candy to neighborhood children. Noreen has been essential to the block club and her neighborhood, as she has applied for and secured grants to fund the block club's efforts over the years.

In her free time Noreen, a diehard football fan, loves to watch the Cleveland Browns and has been a season ticket holder for 28 years. She also enjoys spending time with her husband and grandchildren, gardening and crocheting. When asked what she loves most about the city of Cleveland, Noreen states, "I always came home because of the good, caring people."

City of Cleveland | Senior Day 2015



Celebrate Resilience!

Tom Sargent

Mr. Thomas Sargent was born in 1938 to Leonard and Addie Smith Sargent in southern West Virginia and has been a proud resident of Cleveland for the past 55 years. He is married to his loving wife Pauline and together they have two children, three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Tom graduated from Mark Twain High School and went on to serve in the United States Air Force. After moving to Cleveland he started a career in the health care industry. Mr. Sargent worked in the laboratory at Deaconess Hospital and Bayless Pathology Associates before retiring from Smith Kline Clinical Laboratories as a Supervisor and Safety Manager.

Tom is extremely active in his community saying, "I enjoy being and doing, not slowing down or stopping." He is an active member of the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC); an organization devoted to revitalizing the community by connecting residents, business leaders and government to achieve public

improvement. He was the coordinator for the OBCDC's community garden for 10 years during which he grew fresh vegetables and helped deliver them to Hunger Centers throughout the area. Tom currently helps the OBCDC produce a directory of businesses and services to help local companies maintain success. He is also a crew supervisor for Court Community Service and volunteers his time to oversee the work crews.

In his free time he enjoys fishing, spending time with his family and simply being around people. When asked what he loves most about the city of Cleveland Tom states, "The world class medical services." He believes Cleveland is a sophisticated and accessible community that he has never thought of leaving.

City of Cleveland | Senior Day 2015



Celebrate Activity!

Lydia Fernandez

Ms. Lydia Fernandez was born in Guatemala and moved to Cleveland in 1965. She is the proud mother of her son Nick and feels blessed to have so many friends that she considers her family. She moved to the United States because of the opportunity it held and believed finding her way to Cleveland was meant to be.

In Guatemala, Lydia studied Business Administration and English. With her impressive educational background she had the opportunity to work at numerous organizations including the Social Security Administration, the Board of Education and Department of Human Services. She also pursued her dream of becoming a Licensed Massage Therapist and opened her own therapy clinic to help people heal physically and spiritually.

Lydia is still very active within her community and does not consider herself retired. She is a full time volunteer at her parish, St. Michael Archangel Church. She is an Officer of the church, head of the Social Justice Ministry and a Steward. She

prides herself on “listening more than talking” and willingly takes the responsibility of being a listener of others at the church.

In her spare time she loves being with her friends and family and enjoying the peacefulness of life. When asked what she loves most about living in the city of Cleveland Lydia states, “Everyone here works for what they have.” She believes that Cleveland has a rich history and she is truly happy to be here.

City of Cleveland | Senior Day 2015



Celebrate Responsibility!

Carmen Nieves

Ms. Carmen Nieves was born on May 6, 1951 in Puerto Rico and moved to Cleveland in 1979. She has been a proud resident of Cleveland for the past 35 years and is committed to reaching out into the community and aiding those in need. She is the loving mother of four children, Edwin, Gloria, Vanessa and Efrain, 12 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

In the 1980's Carmen immersed herself in Cleveland's Hispanic community along with pioneers Minerva Fuentes, Raul Vega, and Moises Maldonado to develop the Spanish-American Daycare. Ms. Nieves is an irreplaceable asset within the community, assisting the Hispanic population with translation services at MetroHealth, Jobs and Family Services, the Social Security Administration and many other agencies that offer services beneficial to the Hispanic population. Carmen is one of the founders of many Hispanic community events such as the First Puerto Rican Parade in Cleveland and Café Festival through the Yaucano Club. Ms. Nieves worked for nine years with Kirby Manor Health

Services assisting seniors in diverse areas and currently works part time through SIS Home Care, LLC providing State Tested Nurse Assistant Services.

Carmen currently lives at Kirby Manor and organizes the Senior Community Garden, sewing class, Birthday and Breakfast Club and holiday dinners. She generously devotes her time to bringing seniors food from food banks, farmers' markets and other agencies offering senior food assistance.

In her spare time, Carmen enjoys sewing and crocheting blankets, hats and gloves for the grandchildren of her fellow Kirby Manor residents. When asked what stands out most about the city of Cleveland, Carmen simply states, "The people." She believes the diversity of the city and the friendships she has formed truly represent the best of Cleveland.

City of Cleveland | Senior Day 2015



Celebrate Commitment!

Mary C. Columbro

Mrs. Mary C. Columbro was born on January 4, 1942 in Cleveland, Ohio to the late Catherine and John Corrigan and is a lifelong resident of the city of Cleveland. She married Anthony Columbro on June 15, 1985 and is a devoted mother of three sons, Michael, Richard and John and grandmother to Eric and Sarah.

Mrs. Columbro graduated from St. Theresa High School in Cleveland and went on to study Accounting at Fenn College. During her career she worked as a book keeper, a bill collector and an asset control clerk before retiring from Chase Bank.

Mary has always been a lover of people and enjoys bringing laughter to those around her. She is constantly spreading joy and happiness with a comedic performance known as “The Church Lady” at her local church, Blessed Trinity. Aside from her comedy act, Mary also ushers and serves as the co-coordinator and treasurer of the Women’s Ministry at Blessed Trinity. She participates in Puritas Development Cooperation meetings,

which serve to improve and better the well-being of the elderly within the community. Mary is also a part of the Ward 16 Campaign Club, volunteering her time to help with campaign activities, efforts and functions.

In her free time Mary loves to garden, sew, cook and spend time with her husband and family. When asked what she loves most about the city of Cleveland, she states, “The leadership.” Mary believes the hard work and dedication displayed by the city’s leadership are what make Cleveland a better place for everyone.

City of Cleveland | Senior Day 2015



Celebrate Laughter!

Cliff LaRocque

Mr. Cliff LaRocque is a proud lifelong resident of the City of Cleveland. Born in 1938 in West Park, he is the oldest of five children. Cliff married his loving wife Jean in 1966; together they have three sons and seven grandchildren.

Cliff attended St. Vincent Elementary School and graduated from St. Edward High School in Lakewood. After High School, he joined the Ohio National Guard and was honorably discharged as an E5 Demolition Sergeant. In 1972 Cliff began working as a car salesman for Commander Ray Chevrolet, after more than 28 years of service he retired from the dealership in 2000.

Mr. LaRocque is a caring member of the Cleveland community who enjoys helping those in need. He is a dedicated member of the West Park Kiwanis an organization that supports and raises funds to benefit the community. He has served as the Kiwanis President three times and is currently the Lieutenant Governor, overseeing all 10 divisions of the organization. Within Kiwanis, Cliff helps raise funding for Meals on Wheels, the

YMCA and St. Joseph Academy through events such as Dine and Donate. The Kiwanis supports numerous multi-cultural schools by donating to their reading programs and the organization is also a part of the Kiwanis International mission pledging \$1200 dollars each year to help end neonatal tetanus.

In his free time he enjoys gardening and traveling with his family. When asked what he loves most about the city of Cleveland he states, "It's getting stronger." Cliff believes the strength of the community and neighborhood he loves to call home makes Cleveland a nice place to live.

City of Cleveland | Senior Day 2015



Celebrate Caring!

*The Cleveland Department of Aging thanks the
Mayor and City Council for their support of Senior Day.*

Mayor Frank G. Jackson
President of Council Kevin J. Kelley

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Ward 10 – Jeffrey Johnson

Ward 2 – Zachary Reed

Ward 11 – Dona Brady

Ward 3 – Joe Cimperman

Ward 12 – Anthony Brancatelli

Ward 4 – Kenneth L. Johnson

Ward 13 – Kevin J. Kelley

Ward 5 – Phyllis E. Cleveland

Ward 14 – Brian Cummins

Ward 6 – Mamie J. Mitchell

Ward 15 – Matt Zone

Ward 7 – TJ Dow

Ward 16 – Brian Kazy

Ward 8 – Michael D. Polensek

Ward 17 – Martin J. Keane

Ward 9 – Kevin Conwell

Special thanks to those who prepared this book:

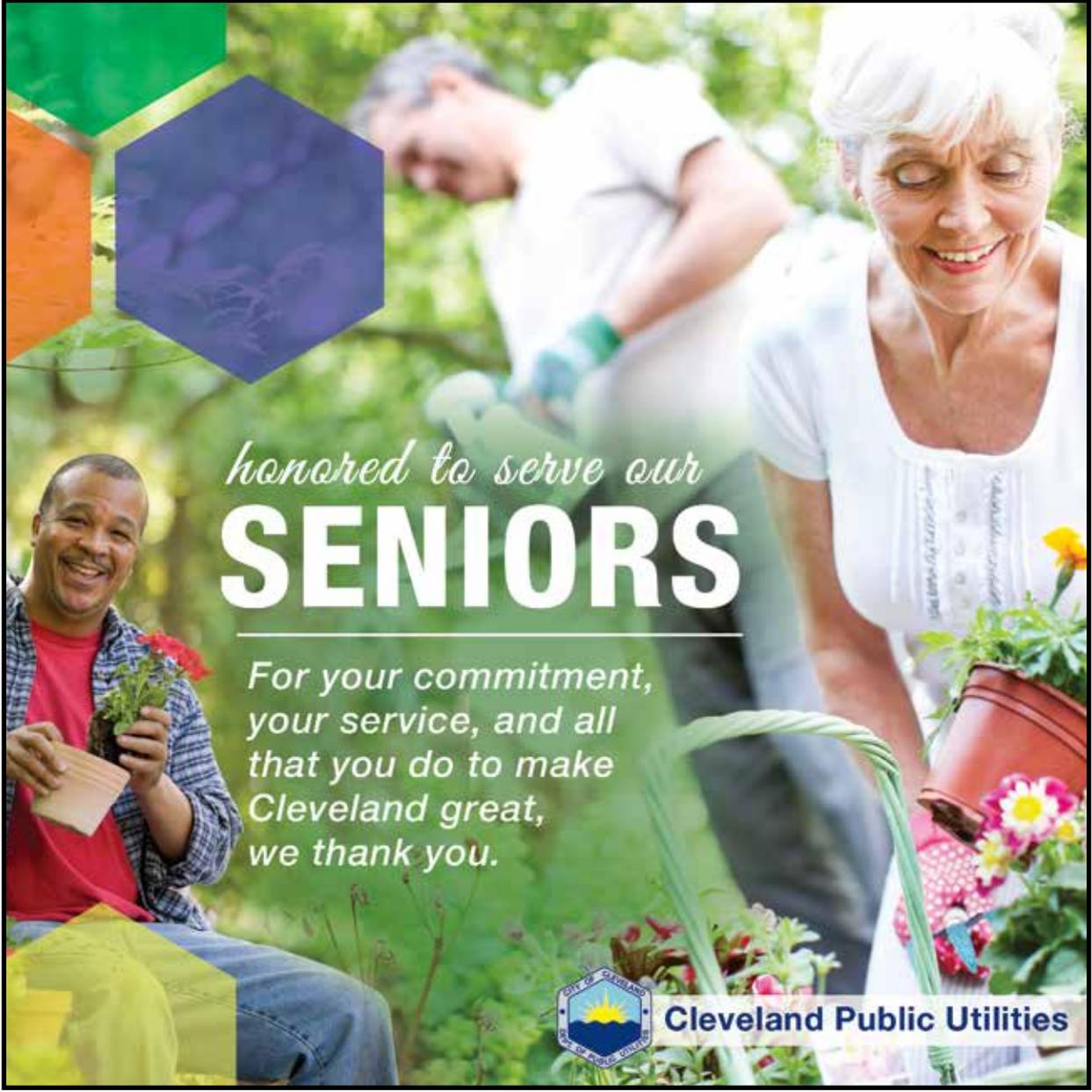
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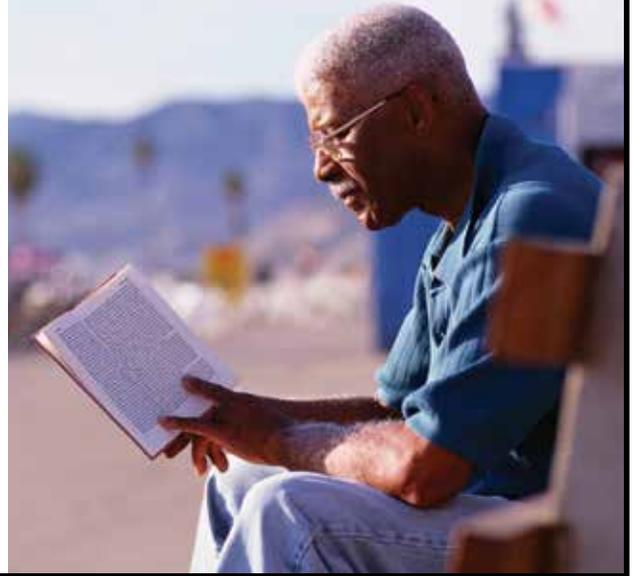
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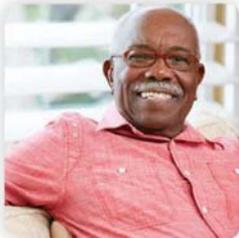
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