



Media Release

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Five Seniors Inducted Into Hall of Fame for Enriching Lives of Others

Five Arkansans from across the state were inducted into the state's Senior Hall of Fame on Tuesday. The Senior Hall of Fame honors Arkansans 65 and older who, through volunteering, have worked to improve and enhance the lives of seniors in Arkansas.

"We have people pushing every day to make sure our seniors have a voice in public policy and have the things they need to live life to the fullest," said Steven Jones, Deputy Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS). "It's crucial that we recognize this hard work because we couldn't do it without them."

The award is given each year in May to coincide with Older Americans Month. This year's inductees represent longtime volunteers committed to ensuring seniors have enough food to eat and a place at the table during policy decisions that affect older Arkansans.

"It's a great honor to be inducted into the Senior Hall of Fame," said new inductee Warren Blaylock. "Individuals who receive this award today weren't working for praise. We just appreciate the opportunity to serve our fellow man."

They included:

- Wetzell LaGrone, 79, of Dover, LaGrone is an artist who has donated several of his works to fundraising events and was the Chairman for three Silver Haired Legislature Sessions.
- Ann Ashcroft, 78, of Malvern, Ashcroft has served as on several boards and councils, including the Area on Agency Board of Directors and President of the Hot Springs County Homemakers Council.
- Jean Ann Roddy, 71, of Fort Smith, Roddy is an alumna of the Silver-Haired Legislature and delivers Meals on Wheels.
- Warren Blaylock, 92, of Alma. Blaylock serves on the Crawford County Hospital Board of Directors and has served as a volunteer auctioneer for various charities.
- Paul Mruk, 68, of Mountain Home. Mruk is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps and the Air Force. He and his wife have Mruk Family Educational Center on Aging and he serves as Chairman on the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging.

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“We really had an outstanding group of nominees this year, and the decision was tough,” said Krista Hughes, director of the DHS Division of Aging and Adult Services. “I think we selected leaders in our communities who are tireless in their pursuit of senior supports and services, and we couldn’t be more proud of this year’s inductees.”