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**HELPAGE USA UNVEILS INAUGURAL “60 OVER 60” LIST**

***First-time initiative spotlights dynamic, older Americans creating positive change that enriches their communities and the world***

**Washington (January 20, 2022) –** HelpAge USA, a non-profit organization that champions the dignity and potential of older people, today released its first-ever “60 Over 60” list of dynamic, older Americans who are making significant contributions to society at the local, national and international levels.

HelpAge USA works in the United States and with partners in more than 80 low- and middle-income countries to advance the wellbeing and inclusion of older people. HelpAge USA is part of the HelpAge Global Network, which has a 40-year track record of advocacy and life-changing programs. Their vision is a world in which all people can lead dignified, healthy and secure lives regardless of how old they are or where they live. More information about HelpAge USA can be found at [www.HelpAgeUSA.org](http://www.HelpAgeUSA.org).

“People over 60 have a wonderful breadth and depth of knowledge due to their years of experience,” said Cindy Cox-Roman, chief executive officer of HelpAge USA. “It is time that we recognize and celebrate their wisdom, tenacity and generosity, and show the world that people over 60 have a never-ending desire to make the world a better place.”

The 2022 HelpAge USA “60 Over 60” list includes a variety of individuals who are successfully pursuing what matters to them well into their older years. Honorees include:

* **Jean Beasley, age 85 of North Carolina**, took over her daughter’s inspiring project to protect the sea turtles, their nests and the emerging hatchlings on Topsail Island off the state’s coast. She has spoken on the importance of conservation, both for sea turtles and for the planet, and is recognized around the world for her important work.
* **Congresswoman Joyce Beatty, age 71 from Ohio**, represents the state’s 3rd district in Washington, D.C. She serves on the Diversity and Inclusion, and Housing, as well as the Community Development and Insurance subcommittees. She also is the chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus, and an influential member of the Democratic Seniors Task Force.
* **Warren Buffett, age 91 from Nebraska**, co-founded The Giving Pledge, whereby billionaires pledge to give at least half of their fortunes to philanthropic causes. He promised to give away 99 percent of his fortune during his lifetime, donating $41 billion thus far. His gifts have gone to support issues such as combatting poverty, fighting homelessness and advancing human rights.

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* **Ysabel Duron, age 74 from California**, is the founder and former director of Latinas Contra Cancer, a San Jose-based non-profit serving the Latino community. In 2017, Duron launched The Latino Cancer Institute (TLCI), a nationwide network dedicated to enhancing the work of Latino community service agencies and providing collaboration with the global cancer research community to diminish the Latino cancer burden.
* **Tom Hanks, age 65 of California**, serves as the campaign chair of the Hidden Heroes Campaign of the Elizabeth Dole Foundation. This movement works to support military and veteran caregivers more effectively. He also is an Academy Award-winning actor and earned seven Emmy awards for his work as a producer.
* **Dr. Madonna Thunder Hawk, age 82 from South Dakota**, is an Indigenous civil rights activist best known for her roles as a leader in the American Indian Movement (AIM), a co-founder of Women of All Red Nations, and the organizer and tribal liaison of the Lakota Law Project.
* **Opal Lee, age 95 from Texas**, began her mission of advocating for national recognition of Juneteenth at the age of 89. She walked from her home in Texas to Washington, D.C., and quickly became known as the "Grandmother of Juneteenth." In June of 2021, her advocacy proved fruitful with the recognition of Juneteenth as a federal holiday.
* **Dr. Maria Maccecchini, age 70 from Pennsylvania**, is the founder, president, chief executive officer and executive board member of Annovis. She founded Annovis to develop better therapeutics for Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s and other neurodegenerative diseases.
* **L.C. "Buckshot" Smith, age 91 of Arkansas**, is the state’s oldest police officer. Throughout his life and work, Smith has shown an immense dedication to his community and a motivation to care for others' wellbeing. His mantra is that police officers need to respect people, which is why he has "taken more people home than...to jail" in his many years as an officer.

“We salute this diverse group of adults in their 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s who are making a difference and inspiring others,” added Cox-Roman. “They are sharing their gifts with the world, and we are privileged to honor them.”

The complete list of honorees (alphabetical by state) is as follows:

**Alabama**

***Fred D. Gray*, 90s.** A renowned civil rights attorney, preacher and activist, he has represented clients like Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks.

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***Lilly Ledbetter*, 80s.** An activist in employment discrimination, Ledbetter has spent her life advocating for equal pay for women.

***Bryan Stevenson*, 60s.** As founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, he fights to eliminate excessive and unfair sentencing and exonerate innocent death row prisoners.

**Arizona**

***Cindy McCain*, 60s.** A humanitarian and diplomat, she is dedicated to improving the lives of those less fortunate in the United States and around the world.

**Arkansas**

***L.C. "Buckshot" Smith,* 90s*.*** Arkansas's oldest police officer, his mantra is that police officers need to respect people, which is why he has "taken more people home than...to jail" in his many years as an officer.

**California**

***Cher*, 70s.** Following the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020, she co-founded the CherCares Pandemic Resource and Response Fund to help underserved communities struggling with poverty and other adversities.

***Ysabel Duron*, 70s.** An award-winning Latina journalist and cancer survivor, she is one of the nation’s leading authorities in Latino/Hispanic cancer education and advocacy.

***Sylvia Earle, Ph.D.*, 80s.** A marine biologist, oceanographer and author, she is helping to restore the ocean through Mission Blue, her global coalition to protect marine areas.

***Danny Glover*, 70s.** A UNICEF Ambassador, he advocates for economic justice and access to health care and education programs.

***Tom Hanks*, 60s.** In addition to an acclaimed acting career, Hanks serves as the campaign chair of the Hidden Heroes Campaign of the Elizabeth Dole Foundation, which works to support military and veteran caregivers more effectively.

***Nancy Pelosi*, 80s.** As the 52nd Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi made history when she was the first woman elected to the position.

***Alice Waters*, 70s.** A chef, restauranteur and author, she has been at the forefront of the sustainable agriculture movement for over four decades.

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***Maxine Waters*, 80s.** During her thirty years in Congress, Congresswoman Waters has

pushed for action on environmental justice, poverty, racial inequity and human rights.

**District of Columbia**

***Kay Chernush*, 70s.** The founder of ArtWorks for Freedom, she has dedicated herself to building awareness about human trafficking and modern-day slavery using art exhibits, performances and films.

***Dr. Anthony Fauci*, 80s.** Our nation’s leading expert on infectious diseases, he is America’s guiding light in navigating the COVID-19 pandemic.

***Carol Fennelly***, **70s.** Founder and executive director of Hope House DC, she works to keep dads who are in prison in regular contact with their children and decrease recidivism.

***Guleford Bobo*, 70s.** As chairperson of Washington, D.C.’s Commission on Aging, he is dedicated to making Washington, D.C. an age-friendly city for older people.

***Kerry Kennedy*, 60s.** As president of the nonprofit Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, she promotes human rights around the world.

***Clarence “Buddy” Moore*, 80s.** As a member of Mayor Muriel Bowser’s Multimodal Accessibility Advisory Council and Outreach Coordinator for Ward One Senior Wellness Center, Buddy helps older people and persons with disabilities in D.C. thrive.

***Elizabeth White*, 60s.** Author of “55, Underemployed and Faking Normal,” she is an age solutions advocate dedicated to helping older adults who face uncertain work and financial insecurity.

***Dr. Imani Woody*, 60s.** Founder of Mary's House for Older Adults in Washington, D.C., she works to provide safe and affordable housing for LGBTQ seniors.

**Florida**

***Velma Daniels*, 80s.** The author of fifteen books, she writes about people whose lives are inspired by acts of faith, hope and love.

**Georgia**

***Jimmy Carter*, 90s.** Through his work with the Carter Center and Habitat for Humanity, he continues to fight for peace and build hope.

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**Illinois**

***Howard Buffett*, 60s.** Through his charitable foundation, he works to mitigate conflict

and other barriers to global food security and economic prosperity.

***Cynthia Williams*, 60s.** As the founder and president of Austin Peoples Action Center on Chicago's West Side, she helps people gain access to housing and other social services to improve their lives.

**Indiana**

***Judi Aubel,* 70s.** Through her organization, the Grandmother Project – Change Through Culture, she has dedicated herself to improving the lives of thousands of women and children in the poorest communities of Senegal.

**Maryland**

***Rich Harwood,* 60s.**As president and founder of the Harwood Institute, he is dedicated to imparting hope and bringing communities together for positive change.

***Jeanne Kelly*, 70s.** As founder of Encore Creativity for Older Adults, she helps older people realize artistic, mental, physical and social benefits from choral participation.

***Don Reed***, **60s.** In his multiple roles with the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Montgomery County affiliate, he helps build peer communities that support, educate and advocate for persons living with mental illness and their families.

***Tony Sarmiento*, 60s.** Following a career in the labor movement and advocacy for low-income older adults, he currently serves on the board of the Charles Koiner Conservancy for Urban Farming and chairs the AFL-CIO Retirees Association.

**Massachusetts**

***Dr. Paul Farmer,* 60s.** A medical anthropologist and physician, he is dedicated to improving health care for the world's poorest people.

**Michigan**

***Edith Lee-Payne,* 70s**. **An activist for quality education, equal housing, public safety and voting rights, she also advocates as a donor mom for organ and tissue donation in communities where donations are most needed.**

**Minnesota**

***Patricia Hall*, 70s.** Co-founder of H2O for Life, an organization that educates and

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inspires youth to take action to solve the global water crisis.

***Winona LaDuke*, 60s.** Executive director of Honor the Earth, she is known for her activism on climate change, renewable energy and environmental justice.

**Missouri**

***Imelda Maurer*, 80s.** As a gerontologist and Catholic Sister, she advocates for a philosophy and environment of HOME for older Sisters, regardless of the physical setting, that honors aging and that facilitates their living an engaged life to the highest degree possible.

**Nebraska**

***Warren Buffett***, **90s.** Co-founder of The Giving Pledge, he has given away $41 billion thus far to issues like combatting poverty, fighting homelessness and advancing human rights.

**New Jersey**

***Vito Perillo*, 90s.** The recently re-elected mayor of Tinton Falls, NJ, he has worked to improve infrastructure and equipment, pave roads and sidewalks, and expand parkland in his community.

**New Mexico**

***Dolores Huerta*, 90s.** As founder and president of the Dolores Huerta Foundation, she works to develop leaders and advocate for the working poor, women and children.

**New York**

***Ashton Applewhite*, 60s.** Author and activist against ageism, she is catalyzing a movement to make discrimination based on age as unacceptable as any other kind.

***Jane Fonda*, 80s.** A climate change activist, she presses for government action to protect our environment.

***Laura Geller*, 60s.** Founder of an eponymous beauty company, she is committed to making all women feel beautiful and worthy, regardless of their age.

***Jonathan Hollander*, 70s.** A trailblazer in dance, he continues to break boundaries and launch initiatives seeking to increase human understanding through dance.

***Joan Holmes*, 80s.** As founding President of The Hunger Project, she is dedicated to

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transforming the world’s belief that hunger is inevitable to a new truth - hunger can now end.

***Oren Lyons*, 90s.** As a faithkeeper of the Turtle Clan of the Onondaga Nation, he advocates for the welfare of future generations through his dedication to environmental protection and the rights of Indigenous people.

***Diana Nyad*, 70s.** After swimming from Havana to Key West at age 65, she is inspiring others through her organization, EverWalk, aimed at getting more than 1 million Americans walking to improve their health.

***Sandra Radoff***, **70s.** As co-founder of Students for Justice, she educates college students about the electoral process and mobilizes them to engage in voter outreach to increase voter turnout.

***George Soros*, 90s.** As the philanthropist behind Open Society Foundations, he supports independent groups working for justice, democratic governance and human rights.

***Reverend Art Simon*, 90s.** Founder of Bread for the World and author, he is devoted to ending hunger in the United States and around the world.

***Shatzi Weisberger*, 90s.** Known as “The People’s Bubbie,” she is a former nurse and death educator who fights for racial equity, gender equality and more.

***Frances Zaineoddin***, **80s.** In her roles with the International Federation on Aging, Soroptimist International, and Gray Panthers NYC, she advocates for the rights of older people and for women and girls.

**North Carolina**

***Jean Beasley*, 80s.** After the passing of her daughter, she took over her project to protect the sea turtles, their nests and the emerging hatchlings on Topsail Island off the coast of North Carolina.

***Katie Snuggs*, 80s.** An activist during the Civil Rights Movement, Councilwoman Snuggs now serves as Asheboro, North Carolina's first-ever elected Black city councilwoman.

**Ohio**

***Joyce Beatty*, 70s.** As Representative for Ohio's 3rd district, she has launched a revitalization of Columbus' Near East Side, enabled funding for low-income students and spearheaded a campaign to transform Columbus' transportation service.

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**Pennsylvania**

***Reverend Violet Little*, 60s.** As founder of The Welcome Church, she provides a community of hospitality and hope for people experiencing homelessness.

***Dr. Maria Maccecchini*, 70s.** A biotech researcher and founder of Annovis, she is working to develop a drug for Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and other neurodegenerative diseases.

***Ellen Weber*, 60s.** As executive director of Robin Hood Ventures and Mid-Atlantic Diamond Ventures, she is the face and force behind Philadelphia's robust start-up ecosystem.

**South Dakota**

***Dr. Madonna Thunder Hawk*, 80s.** A civil rights activist, she is a leader in the American Indian Movement (AIM), a co-founder of Women of All Red Nations, and the organizer and tribal liaison of the Lakota Law Project.

**Tennessee**

***Dolly Parton*, 70s.** In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, she donated $1 million to vaccine research at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and encouraged those who can afford it to make similar donations.

**Texas**

***Opal Lee*, 90s.** Known as the "Grandmother of Juneteenth," she has walked each year from her home in Texas to Washington, D.C., to advocate for national recognition of Juneteenth.

**West Virginia**

***Dr. Sylvia Shurbutt***, **70s.** Founder of the Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities at Shepherd University, she creates writing and teaching programs that bring West Virginia’s rich cultural history and story to students across the state.

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