

Good afternoon.

Today I get to do something I really love doing: I get to recognize outstanding Minnesotans.

It's my honor to present Minnesota's Outstanding Older Worker for 2001, Sister Margaret Smith.

(Applause)

Sister Margaret, who is 80, is a radiology assistant in Park Rapids. She has a pretty good attendance record—she hasn't missed a day of work in 55 years!

Congratulations to her, as well as the two runners-up, 82-year-old Leon Decker, who is a delivery coordinator for Hy-Vee stores in Waseca, and 71-year-old Gil Morales, who is a trainer for Jennie-O in Faribault.

And we're also recognizing Steve Broderson, president of Superior Senior Services. Steve is Minnesota's Outstanding Employer of Older Workers. His company employs more than 600 people who are over 65 years old.

All these outstanding older workers are role models in their communities. Everyone knows them and knows what a great job they do.

Today we're also reminding people, co-workers and employers, to nominate an outstanding older worker for Minnesota's Outstanding Older Worker for 2002 award. Or nominate your company for Outstanding Employer of Older Workers. You can do that at www-dot-experienceworks-dot-org.

Now I'll move over and let you ask these outstanding Minnesotans some questions.