

Delaware – 2007



Ruth Ann Minner Governor of Delaware

Efforts: Member of the Slaughter Neck 4-H Club in Sussex County, Delaware. 4-H projects included clothing, rabbits, public speaking and leadership. Four terms in the state House of Representatives (1974-1982); three terms in the state Senate (1982-1993). Delaware Lieutenant Governor, 1993 until 2001. Became the first female Governor of Delaware on January 3, 2001; re-elected in 2004. Staunch supporter of the University of Delaware, Cooperative Extension and 4-H Youth Development.

Born in Slaughter Neck, Ruth Ann left school at age 16 to help on her family's farm. She belonged to the Slaughter Neck 4-H Club and has fond memories of 4-H. She says she uses the leadership and public speaking skills she learned in 4-H daily as Governor. Her first husband died when she was 32 years old.

Hometown: Slaughter Neck, DE
Nominated by: Delaware 4-H
Year Inducted: 2007

As head of household with three sons, she earned her GED diploma while working two jobs and providing for her family. She later married Roger Minner, who died of lung cancer in 1991. Beginning her political career in 1974, Minner served four terms as a state representative (1974-82) and three terms as a state senator (1982-93). She served as Lt. Governor from 1993 until 2001, when she became the first female Governor of Delaware. She was re-elected in 2004.

Governor Minner is a staunch supporter of the University of Delaware, Cooperative Extension and 4-H. She attends numerous Extension events and takes time to visit with constituents regarding their concerns and needs. She spends hours at the Delaware State Fair, always making the 4-H building one of her first stops. 4-H members see her in action each year during Legislative Day, when she joins them at a rally on the capital steps. She has been especially supportive of the 4-H Youth Development program, providing state line-item funding for two state 4-H specialists and additional field staff. Through the support of her administration and the state legislature, Delaware 4-H Youth Development can boast two field staff in each county office and a state 4-H staff of three.