

The quilt is a marvelously conceived and meticulously constructed work. The structure and detail were crafted with an eye for historical accuracy, and every opportunity was taken to imbue the quilt with appropriate symbolism. For example, 120,000 tassels edge the red-white-and blue tapestry, to represent the number of Japanese Americans incarcerated in the wartime relocation camps. And the quilt's dimensions are carefully framed at 19 x 41 feet, to recall the fateful year America entered the war.

The main body of the red, white, and blue cloth quilt is interspersed with memorabilia, including dog tags and parts of uniforms, that were selected from Nisei veterans themselves. Other sections contain heartfelt poems written by some of the junior high students. The names of more than 20,000 Nisei soldiers, from the 100th Battalion, the famed 442nd Infantry Regiment, the 522nd Artillery Battalion, 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion, and the Military Intelligence Service, are painstakingly attached to the rest of the quilt's panels.

Its creators intended the quilt to honor Americans of Japanese ancestry who volunteered to fight for their country in order to prove their loyalty, in spite of the detention of their family members in internment camps. The students expressed hope that the tapestry will teach others how Japanese Americans, by making sacrifices on the field of battle, rose above the indignities they suffered. These youths felt strongly that the World War II history of the Japanese Americans soldiers, which is not generally covered in history books, was a story worth telling.

Mrs. Meyerratken, the leader of the project, says that the quilt "is meant to promote social justice by teaching others in simple ways what these veterans did and how they overcame racism."

I hope that the quilt will tour the Nation and convey to all citizens the message of tolerance and understanding that these young people from Indiana have so beautifully and inspirationally captured in this marvelous quilt. If this quilt accurately represents the sentiments of America's heartland, then I think the future is in good hands indeed.●

#### TRIBUTE TO WALKER JOHNSON

● Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, today I rise to pay tribute to a fine man and a great Kentuckian, Mr. Walker Johnson. On July 24, 2001, Walker celebrated his 90th birthday. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing him the very best.

Walker Johnson is a loving family man and a great friend. Born to Robert and Sanny Johnson, he enjoys small-town living and is a life-long resident of Adair County, KY. Walker is the father of four children, Billy, Doris, James, and Delois. In fact, it is through Delois and her husband, Rich,

that I have heard so many wonderful stories about Walker. He is a special friend to many, and is always willing to help others.

Walker is a unique individual who is known for his wit and sense of humor. Throughout his life, Walker has pursued a wide range of activities including music, horse shoeing, and dog trading. He is a talented musician and spent much time in his early years traveling and playing the fiddle with performers such as String Bean and Uncle Henry's Mountaineers. In the 1940s, he put the fiddle aside and began shoeing horses and trading dogs. Walker was one of the most skilled and hardest working farrier's in the business. In fact, at the age of 68, he managed to shoe 18 horses in one day. What a feat!

Walker has also stayed busy trading dogs, which he's done for more than 50 years. He has sold dogs all over Kentucky as well as in several other States. Today, at the age of 90, he still enjoys trading and sitting down with friends for good conversation.

On behalf of myself and my colleagues in the U.S. Senate, I want to pay tribute to Walker Johnson and sincerely wish him and his family the very best. I ask that an article which ran in the Adair Progress on Sunday August 24, 2000, appear in the RECORD. The article follows:

[From the Adair Progress, Aug. 24, 2000]

AN OLD-TIME FIDDLER NOW AN HONORABLE  
KENTUCKY COLONEL  
(By Paul B. Hayes)

For around three-quarters of a century, Walker Johnson has traveled around the countryside—playing a fiddle, shoeing horses or trading dogs and various other items.

Johnson, a life-long resident of the county who has resided in the Millerfield community for the past 50-plus years, is known far and wide for his activities throughout the years, along with wit and humor.

A few weeks ago, the 89-year-old Johnson began having some health problems, but doctors installed a pacemaker in his heart about a month ago, and he appears to be on the mend. Last week, his spirits got a little boost when State Senator Vernie McGaha paid him a visit, and made him a Kentucky Colonel on behalf of Gov. Paul Patton.

While visiting with Sen. McGaha, his son Bobby, and another friend, Johnson took a little while to reminisce about his years as a musician, farrier and trader—and even play a tune or two on his fiddle.

"I've been playing a fiddle over 80 years," Johnson said while sitting on the porch of his home. "When I was six years old, Daddy made me a little cigar box fiddle.

"I started playing it, and that's all I wanted to do," he continued, "I got so where I wouldn't help Momma pack in the water or wood, and she got mad and threw it out the window.

"Eight days later, Daddy went to town and bought me a three-quarter size fiddle. He brought it home, give it to me, and told Momma "This don't go out the window."

Johnson kept playing his fiddle and before too many years had passed, was traveling quite a bit to play music (In an article about Johnson that appeared a few years ago in the Russell Register, he was quoted as saying "I found out it was a lot easier to earn money by playing a fiddle at night than it was to hoe in the fields all day long.")

He played for a long time with String Bean, who later went on to the Grand Ole Opry and also made many appearances on Hee Haw.

He also played for a good while with Uncle Henry's Kentucky Mountaineers. The group played weekly on a Lexington radio station for three years, then got a chance to audition for the Grand Ole Opry.

"We went down there and played, and they offered to hire us," he recalled. "But, we decided not to go because it was too far.

Uncle Henry's group also went to Chicago to perform for a while, Johnson didn't go. "Casey Jones took my place when the band went to Chicago," he said.

Johnson also played at a weekly square dance that was held in Columbia for two years, but in the 1940s, he gave up playing his fiddle on a regular basis, and took up his other two professions—shoeing horses and trading dogs.

Johnson shoed horses for many years—including many race horses that raced at the country fairs in Russell and Adair counties. He shoed so many Russell County Derby winners (along with several Adair County Derby winners) that he was given special recognition at the Russell County Fair one year.

He kept on shoeing horses way past the time most people would have retired, even shoeing 18 horses in one day when he was 68 years old.

"They always said it took a strong back and a weak mind to shoe horses," he said, "and I guess I was well qualified, for I had them both."

While he's played music and shoed horses for years, Johnson's main reputation has been gained as a dog trader. In dog trading circles, he's known all over Kentucky and several other states.

"I've been trading dogs for 55 years," he said "I've sold a many a load of dogs in North Carolina, Virginia, Georgia and other states. I've owned a many a good dog, and a lot that weren't no count at all."

Johnson said that he traded fox hounds for 43 years, then 12 years ago switched to beagles. A few weeks ago, when he was sick, he sold all the beagles he had.

"I had six, and sold them all," he said. "This is the first time in 35 years that I haven't had a dog, but I'm going to get me some more when I get able."

On his being made a Kentucky Colonel at the age of 89, Johnson admitted he was quite pleased to receive the commission.

"I'm proud to be a Kentucky Colonel, it's about the only thing I've got now that I ain't got no dogs," he said. And, referring to the Kentucky Colonel certificate, which lists him as the Honorable Walker Johnson, he added, "I've been a long time finding out I was honorable—I was always called something else."●

#### HONORING FOSTER PARENTS

● Mrs. CARNAHAN. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to honor and recognize a very special group of people. I commend Missouri's foster parents for their dedication to helping the lives of children. Every day, caring people open up their homes for children who are in need of help. Currently, Missouri is home to approximately 4,416 foster families.

Being a foster parent takes tremendous skill and dedication. Foster parents have to go through a training and assessment program in order to have a better understanding of the challenges that they will face raising foster children. Foster parents work as a team