

State – 2009



C. William "Bill" Nelson II  
U. S. Senator

**Efforts:** Florida 4-H member. Elected to the State 4-H Council - Treasurer, Vice President, and President. Won the Tropicana Public Speaking Contest and was awarded trips to the National 4-H Conference in Washington, D.C. Captain in the U.S. Army. NASA astronaut, Payload Specialist on STS-61C. Florida State Representative, State Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner, and State Fire Marshall. U.S. Representative and U.S. Senator. Inducted into the Florida 4-H Hall of Fame in 2002.

Bill Nelson's roots grow deep in Florida 4-H. He was elected as State 4-H Council Treasurer, Vice President, and President. He won the Tropicana Public Speaking Contest and earned trips to National 4-H Conference in Washington, D.C. His success as a 4-H youth continued as a 4-H alumni. Nelson achieved the rank of Captain in the U.S. Army, served in the Florida Legislature as State Representative, become an astronaut as a Payload Specialist on STS-61C, was elected to the U.S. Congress, served as Florida Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner, and State Fire Marshall, and in 2000 was elected U.S. Senator.

Hometown: Melbourne, FL  
Nominated by: Florida 4-H  
Year Inducted: 2009

In his many professional positions, he has enthusiastically worked on behalf of 4-H and the Extension Service. He continued to seek funding for 4-H Youth Programs as a Brevard County 4-H Foundation Board

member. As a State Legislator, he fought to protect the budget for the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, where Florida 4-H is headquartered. As State Treasurer, Nelson opened his doors to 4-H youth and adults to visit him and learn about the Florida Legislature and state government. As a U.S. Senator, he continues to be a great inspiration to 4-H youth by attending youth events and encouraging them to build and develop character by participating in life's challenging opportunities.

**Quote:** Florida 4-H gave me early training in public service. The 4-H experiences raising and showing Santa Gertrudis beef cattle, participating in public speaking contests, and serving as an elected officer had a tremendous impact on my life and encouraged me to develop leadership skills for government. I am a better public servant because of many positive experiences in 4-H.



Bill Nelson with his 4-H beef project.