

## Michigan – 2009



### **Janet Blanchard** **Michigan First Lady 1983-91**

**4-H Efforts:** Joined Wheatfield 4-H Club at age 10; showed her Grand Champion Angus heifer at the Ingham County Fair. More than two decades of service beginning in 1989 on the Michigan 4-H Foundation Board. Co-chaired the capital campaign that raised \$10,300,000 to support Michigan 4-H Youth Development programming. Served as the Michigan Emerald Clover Society Mistress of Ceremonies in 2008 to recognize other Michigan 4-H alumni. Received Michigan Emerald Clover Society membership in the 2002 inaugural class.

For more than 30 years, Janet Blanchard's name has been well known among public servants in Michigan. She was spokesperson for the Michigan Neighborhood Builder's alliance which provided grants to improve quality, safety and economic stability of local neighborhoods. Janet was the spokesperson for the Michigan Children's Trust Fund, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. She established and coordinated the Governor's Adult Literacy Task Force. She served as Michigan's First Lady in 1983-91.

Hometown: Williamston, Michigan  
Nominated by: Michigan 4-H  
Year Inducted: 2009

Over the years, Janet has worked in the Michigan Departments of Education, Commerce, Civil Service, Labor, Management and Budget. She has been active on the national and international stage as well with service on the board of directors for the Centre for Studies of Children at

Risk in Hamilton, Ontario and as Protocol Officer for the dedication committee for the World War II Memorial in Washington D.C. This latter project was especially significant for her, as her father was a veteran of that war. In 2008, Janet actively engaged in the U.S. presidential campaign and served as an at-large delegate to the Democratic National Convention.

**Quote:** In this 21st century world where we are sending men and women into space, where technology is changing every second, where our young men and women are serving in the military around the world -- there is a critical need for leadership -- 4-H can be and has been a vehicle for that leadership. As we celebrate our 100th anniversary in Michigan, I am reminded that 4-H has produced governors, United States senators and members of Congress, numerous members of the State legislature, business leaders and millions of good and decent citizens of Michigan. We know that our young 4-H'ers today will be our leaders tomorrow.



Janet Blanchard with her 4-H steer.