



**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES**

**Earl Ray Tomblin  
Governor**

**Bureau for Children and Families  
Deputy Commissioner for Programs  
Division of Children and Adult Services  
350 Capitol Street, Room 691  
Charleston, West Virginia 25301-3704  
Telephone: (304) 558-7980 Fax: (304) 558-4563**

**Michael J. Lewis, M.D., Ph.D.  
Cabinet Secretary**

**WV-World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2011**

On June 15, 2011 West Virginia recognized their second annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day at the State Capitol. The South Charleston Junior ROTC started the event with the presentation of the flags. This is the first year West Virginia had a "Prevent Elder Abuse" flag. Mrs. Nona Bennett sang the National Anthem.

WV-DHHR Commissioner, Jason Najmulski was the moderator and spoke of the over 13, 398 reports of abuse, neglect and financial exploitation Adult Protective Services had for the year 2010. Governor Tomblin spoke about the large population of seniors in West Virginia and read the Proclamation which he presented to DHHR Cabinet Secretary Michael Lewis. Senator Rockefeller was unable to attend but sent Wes Holden to read an impassioned letter from Senator Rockefeller that reflects the issues seniors in West Virginia face.

The keynote speaker was Booth Goodwin II, the US Attorney for the Southern District. Mr. Goodwin spoke of his vow to make West Virginia seniors safer by ridding them of unnecessary prescriptions that cause an increase in crimes against the elderly and prosecuting the perpetrators. Mr. Goodwin also elaborated on the scams that target seniors. He told the story of the

Huntington gentleman who was taken by overseas scammers for over \$120,000.00 and when he didn't send them anymore money, the perpetrators threatened to send him to an overseas jail. Mr. Goodwin wanted to let people know they can contact his office if there are any questions regarding scams.

As there was a good crowd who attended the event, lots of great refreshments and information, WV-World Elder Abuse Awareness Day was a success.