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36? **GUEST COLUMN**
BY LT. GOV. DARR

**Economic Education in
Arkansas**

LITTLE ROCK — Last week, I attended a luncheon celebrating the 50th year of Economics Arkansas, a non-profit dedicated to the teaching of economics in schools across our state. At the luncheon, they honored several Arkansans with the Excellence in Free Enterprise Award for their success as entrepreneurs. They recognized the legacies left by the late Sam Walton, the late Don Tyson, and the late J.B. Hunt and his wife Johnelle. J.B. Hunt only attended school through the 7th grade before he went to work. His trucking company now employs 15,000 people. He built it from the ground up.



Don Tyson, of Tyson Foods, is another Arkansas success story.

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Because of what Don Tyson built, Tyson Foods employs 66,000 people and millions have access to quality food.

Sam Walton's empire started with a five and dime store. From it, he built what has become the world's largest company, supplying jobs and goods to untold millions of people.

These are the type of leaders young people today should emulate. Hardworking, determined, risk-takers who see a need or an opportunity and they seize it, and better people's lives as a result. Not only were they successful businesspeople, but they were generous to others as well. The impact these individuals have had on millions of other people's lives is immeasurable.

I appreciate what Economics Arkansas is doing. Many kids come out of school without knowing about money and how the economy works. They don't know what being an entrepreneur means. Economics Arkansas works with educators in several ways. They provide professional development workshops and conferences, they promote ways for teachers to help learn economics through their Stock Market Game and other programs, and they offer resources, grants, and scholarships for teachers to develop their own economic education projects.

Arthur Brooks, president of the American

Enterprise Institute, says that the promotion of the free enterprise system is about making a moral argument for how the system helps add value to people's lives. He said, "We need a system where passions and rewards meet." I agree. That is what the free enterprise system is. Government is necessary, but it is not the end-all provider of goods and services in our society. The private economy is where kids can break the cycle of poverty and gain independence.

For more information on Economics Arkansas and the work they do in education, visit www.economicsarkansas.org.

Families all over Arkansas have now gone through the pile of Halloween candy and are making plans for Thanksgiving, getting ready to go to visit family, and deciding whether to have mashed potatoes or green beans with the turkey and dressing.

But, there's another special day in between that we must not forget. Next Monday is Veterans Day in America. It is a day in which we honor those who have served our nation in uniform. Whether it be a grandfather, a neighbor, or a co-worker, we all inevitably know someone who has served. We owe these people a debt of gratitude for their sacrifice on our behalf. Though we are currently in a very political season, honoring our military veterans is something we should all agree is worthwhile.

To all of our veterans, retired and active, thank you for your service.