



IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Benjamin Ross **U.S. Military Hero & Strong Swimmer**

In 1955, Mr. Benjamin Ross enlisted in the United States Air Force. He was stationed all over the world, including in Okinawa and Tokyo, Japan and the Ozark Mountains. Mr. Ross then went on to work with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. He retired in 1998 following 35 dedicated years of service to our country's heroes.

Recurring back problems led Mr. Ross to the Community YMCA 15 years ago, and he's been an avid swimmer here ever since! Five days a week, this very active 83-year-old drives from his Southwest Philadelphia home to exercise and stretch in the pool for an hour at a time. Mr. Ross can't say enough great things about our Community Y family.

"The people here are so nice, so friendly. It's very clean, and just a nice place to be. The staff is always willing to help and answer questions, especially when it comes to swimming."

When he's not diving into his workouts, Mr. Ross is a super Philly sports fan. His favorite team? "The Superbowl Champions, of course!" You'll find him decked out in his Philly fan gear - Eagles, Sixers, Phils, you name it. He enjoys talking all things sports with the staff, and members too.

Mr. Ross is a self-taught gardener, and likes to plant flowers every year. He also loves to travel, and says his favorite place to visit is Jamaica. This summer, he's headed to a family reunion. As one of eight children, Mr. Ross says he has quite a big family, and looks forward to spending time with them.

Thank you for your service to our country, Mr. Ross! See you in the pool!