27 June 2016                                                                            To: Sages Over 70 Judges

    I am writing this letter to express my total support of Dr. Alan “Doc” Raun for selection as a Sage Over 70.  I am a retired General Officer of the United States Air Force/Air National Guard as well as the most recent Mayor of Norwalk, Iowa.  I have known Doc for over thirty years and know him to be a very professional, talented and visionary individual.

    My initial contact with Doc was through our church, Norwalk Christian Church (DOC).  Over the years, I worked with him on various committees and projects.  Because of his leadership, respect within the congregation, support/encouragement for all and extemporaneous speaking abilities, he was selected to be an Elder, a very prestigious role in the church.  I was always impressed with his ability to make his comments and prayers during church to “tie in” with the Pastor’s sermon/theme for the day.

    As a member of the military, I had a strong connection with Doc because of his service in WW II.  As a Senior Officer, I was asked to give many military related speeches and I always reflected on the WW II Veterans as the “Greatest Generation” and they were the reason that we don’t speak Japanese or German in this country today. Doc, as most WW II Veterans, has not ever “promoted/talked about” his service and has always been content to just say he “served his country”.

    My step-son (Jason) fell in love with horses at a very young age, liked to ride and always looked forward to talking with Doc about equine “stuff”.  Because of this bond, Doc’s commitment to promoting the equine industry and wanting to support Jason resulted in him giving him a young mare to take to Kansas to enhance his own herd genetics.

    As Mayor of Norwalk, I often looked to Doc for his thoughts, input and ideas for the myriad of issues that faces a fast growing community.  Doc’s education, experience, calm demeanor and deep understanding of solid business practices, helped me greatly in making decisions that were critical to the future success of Norwalk.

Because of my thirty-nine year career in the military as a fighter pilot and officer, I know that Dr. Alan Raun is and always will be an outstanding leader in the equine industry.  The above examples are only but a few of the many outstanding things that Dr. Raun has accomplished in his lifetime and he has put himself in an elite class of veterinarian leaders, so  I would strongly recommend him for selection as a “Sage Over 70”  
  
                        Douglas M. Pierce, Brig Gen (Ret), USAF/ANG  
                        Mayor of Norwalk, IA (2010-2014)