

workers bring to the field."

Through a team spokesman, Robinson declined an interview request prior to the hearing. But in February, he told The Washington Post: "My health is good. I'm excited about the game. I feel like I have something to give to the game. As long as I feel that way, and I'm wanted, I'll be here."

Robinson is one of several older major league managers. Others include Florida's Jack McKeon, 74; San Francisco's Felipe Alou, who turns 70 next month; and the New York Yankees' Joe Torre, who turns 65 in June.

Appearing with Robinson will be Kathlyn Peterson, 65, who works part-time at St. Marys Hospital Medical Center in Madison. Peterson said she works as a transcriptionist two days a week, and every other Saturday, the same kind of work she's been doing for 45 years. The work entails typing up reports such as medical histories and physicals.

Peterson said one reason she keeps working is for the health insurance.

"But I like working," she said. "It gives me something to do. Instead of staying home and reading a book, I can stay active."

The trend of people working longer has been accelerating in recent years, said Donna Butts, executive director of Generations United, a Washington-based group which promotes relationships between youth and their elders.

"People are not just living longer, they're living healthier," said Butts. "And people are choosing not to buy into this whole sun-city myth, but to really stay in communities, stay engaged, whether it's through paid work or volunteer work."

One reason for that, Butts said, is that the nature of work has changed from physical to mental, allowing people to continue working into their 60s and beyond.

Susan Ascher, president of the Ascher Group, a human resources staffing firm in Roseland, N.J., said that companies will rely more on older workers in the coming years because the baby boomer generation is much larger than the ones that succeed it.

Ascher said that people continue to work for a variety of reasons.

"For some it's necessity - they have not saved enough," Ascher said. "But for some, it's to remain young and vibrant, because they want to work."