



The Iowa Compatriot

The Journal of the Iowa Society, Sons of the American Revolution June 21, 2022

We the descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution, who by their sacrifice established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of liberty and solemnly pledge to defend them against every foe.

Upcoming Events

The Iowa SAR and the Iowa Society of the War of 1812 will hold a joint meeting at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 29 at the Urbandale Public Library. The Dodge Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War will meet afterwards at 7 p.m. For more information about the meeting, please contact Doug Frazer.

The Iowa SAR has been asked to participate with the DAR in two parades this summer. The first parade is the Urbandale 4th of July parade. The second parade is the Iowa State Fair parade on August 10. Please contact Mike Rowley for more information.

Honor Flights Return to Dubuque

By Randy Lyon



The Iowa SAR was represented at the return of two Honor Flights from Washington, D.C. Held on May 23rd and 24th, the celebrations brought the SAR together with members of several veterans' groups to welcome back about 68 tired, but completely thrilled veterans of wars dating back to Korea. Flags for everyone in the welcoming committee were provided by the veterans' groups.

Cedar Falls Flag Certificate

By Dave Nation



On Tuesday, May 24, I met with the Mayor of Cedar Falls, Rob Green, to present him with a Flag Certificate for the city. I told him I frequently drive by the Public Safety building near my home and enjoy seeing the flag flying there. I understand many of the city buildings display the flag. He said he was a Civil War reenactor in his younger days. He also said his building was being remodeled and he would like suggestions on patriotic displays for some of the walls. We went to the Public Safety building to get this picture.

Memorial Day Events

By Mike Rowley

Memorial Day observances began early for Iowa SAR and War of 1812 members. After two year of Covid-19 forced cancellations, the Gold Star Museum at the Iowa National Guard's Camp Dodge was able to welcome thousands of the public starting at 5 a.m.

Meeting with veterans of all era's is always an honor. Central Iowa Color Guard members then spent the remainder of the morning standing at attention near the flagpole in the G.A.R. section of Glendale Cemetery as over three thousand cars passed by showing many signs of appreciation. The Color Guard was joined at the site by members Ron Rittel and Tom Gaard.

Some of the group then met in the early afternoon at Des Moines' oldest cemetery to observe the over century old tradition of the Women's Auxiliary of scattering flower petals on the graves of Civil War veterans buried in both G.A.R. sections of Woodland cemetery.



IASSAR Color Guard Commander Mike Rowley with a World War II Veteran at the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum on Memorial Day.

Col. Rezin Redman Grave Marking in Lomax, Illinois

By Mike Rowley

Nearly 185 years to the date of the death of War of 1812 Veteran Col. Rezin Redman, the Iowa Society of the War of 1812 organized a ceremony and placed a stone to mark his grave in Lomax, IL.

Iowa member Dave Nation is a great-great-great-grandson of Col. Redman. He and Iowa War of 1812 member Mike Rowley were joined by Col. Gary Miller (USMC Ret.) Commander of the Neponset Illinois American Legion Honor Guard Unit, Commander Scott Spitzer of the Monmouth American Legion/VFW Honor Guard Unit, descendants of Redman, and the public on Saturday, June 11, 2022.



Left to right: Dave Nation, Col. Miller, Mike Rowley, and the Monmouth American Legion/VFW Honor Guard Unit.

Outstanding Citizenship Certificate and Flag Certificate Presentations

By Randy Lyon



On Memorial Day, Jeff Paar received an Outstanding Citizenship Certificate before a crowd estimated at 70 people. Those in attendance were celebrating Memorial Day, which has a long history at Linwood Cemetery. Be sure to look at the Avenue of Flags at Linwood. Jeff, manager of the cemetery, has been instrumental in keeping this tradition alive in addition to leading the cemetery at a time of many social changes.



This Outstanding Citizenship Certificate presentation was a personal thrill for me. Among Iowans deserving to be remembered and honored is David J. Lyons. From 1987 to 1994, Lyons served as the commissioner of the Iowa Insurance Division. It was during this time and through his determined investigation across the United States that millions of dollars invested by Iowa municipalities in the Iowa Trust Fund were recovered after they had been misappropriated by Steven Wymer. During this time, he directed all activity for statewide oversight of insurance, securities, regulated industries, and other responsibilities assigned by the governor or the legislature. He directed a multi-million budget and a staff of approximately one hundred.



Every community needs outstanding citizens like “Gina Siegert!” A native-born Dubuque, she purchased the Julien’s Journal from its second owner and continues to feature Dubuque events and personalities. If the name of the magazine sounds familiar, it was the one that carried the primary publicity for the Jean Marie Cardinal Memorial dedication. News of the event was even featured on the magazine’s Facebook page. Gina publishes a first-class slick paper publication that boosts Dubuque’s present and future while celebrating its past.



Over 280 flags, each originally given to the family of a veteran, were again on display at Linwood Cemetery in Dubuque. The decades-long tradition of Avenue of the Flags has long been supported by the Linwood Cemetery Association. A Flag Certificate was presented to Jeff Paar, the manager.



Roy Buol is an old friend to SAR Awards. He and his wife received a Flag Certificate and remains the only couple so far to have two flags on their property. Roy is the past mayor of Dubuque and while enjoying his retirement still admitted joining one commission. With all he has done for the City of Dubuque, Roy is a very deserving recipient of this honor.



Ronald J. Helbing of Asbury was the second person I found with an American flag mounted to a tree. They were really interested in the project and marveled at all the driving around that was necessary. They expressed their appreciation and thought the certificate was really good looking.



Steven and Arlene Turnis have enjoyed having a flag in their yard for years. They welcomed the certificate and thanked me for all my efforts.



Ronald Christopherson smiled and said that he had watched me at his neighbor’s home across the street. He figured it had to be something with the flag and thanked me for my work



We met Jack and Barb Smeltzer before as recipients of an Outstanding Citizenship Certificate. I missed the fact that they also flew an American flag, so a return trip was made. Barb's father was Francis J. Kelley, Dubuque's only National Guard general.

There's a lot more than Soup Cookin' at Panera

By Randy Lyon

For the last several months a group of members of the SAR and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War have been holding meetings at Panera in Dubuque. Meetings have been held every other week, except for Memorial Day. The focus of the meetings has been planning programs. Ideas have not been hard to generate. In addition to helping at the Jean Marie Cardinal Memorial dedication on May 14th, this informal group has been looking forward to bringing new-to-this-area programs to the community.

One idea being actively pursued is establishing a pilot program for the popular Wreaths Across America at Linwood Cemetery in Dubuque. Cemetery officials have been enthusiastic. Our SAR/SUVCW committee has also approached leaders of the Dubuque Veterans Freedom Center. Based on our discussions, a plan of action has been developed for this winter. Determined by the success of this year's effort, an expansion of the program to all the cemeteries with the assistance of all the veteran's groups in Dubuque will be in the offing. This is but one of the projects we're actively pursuing in Dubuque, Masterpiece on the Mississippi.

Contributing Wisely

By Randy Lyon

Have you been cashing out investments to make charitable contributions? Stop!! Did you know that by working with a financial advisor or an attorney, you can continue those contributions without suffering tax consequences by cashing out? Charitable contributions from such investments as IRAs can be made directly to organizations you wish to support without forcing you to pay anything on the interest you have received. Too good to be true? Not a bit. Check it out.

The USS Stark Memorial Report

By Randy Lyon

Do you make financial contributions to a veterans' group or an organization dedicated to veterans? Please be sure to email this information about your contributions to Randy Lyon at randylyon1915@gmail.com for inclusion in the SAR USS Stark Memorial Report.

Have you contributed time to veterans' organizations? Do you hold an office in such an organization? We need this information too. Thank you for your efforts.

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*Let us remember our obligation to our forefathers, who gave us our Constitution,
The Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court, and a nation of free men.*