



## The Iowa Compatriot

The Journal of the Iowa Society, Sons of the American Revolution

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*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.*

### Medal and Certificate Awarded to Mary O'Connell for Saving a Life

By Larry Hoelscher



On March 20<sup>th</sup>, Randy Lyon and I met with Mary O'Connell at her house. Her grandsons and her daughter were there to see Mary receive a medal and certificate for saving the life of a shopper at a Fareway grocery store in Dubuque, Iowa.

Mary is a retired nurse who is finishing her working career as a checkout operator at Fareway. A female shopper had a cardiac arrest incident, and Mary revived the shopper by performing CPR until the EMS arrived. They took the shopper to the UnityPoint Finley Hospital in Dubuque. She was then transferred to St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids where she had surgery on her heart. She returned to Dubuque to enjoy Thanksgiving, Christmas, and a wedding anniversary.

It is a citizen like Mary O'Connell that we celebrate with an SAR presentation.

*Left to Right: Larry Hoelscher, Mary O'Connell, and Randy Lyon*

### Looking for Veterans

By Randy Lyon

We've had some responses, but I'll bet a year's dues that there are many more SAR members who have not responded to my call for veterans. Your Society wants to recognize your military commitment, whether or not you fought in a war. Please send your name to [randylyon1915@gmail.com](mailto:randylyon1915@gmail.com) and...thank you for your service!

### Worth Your Attention: American Battlefield Trust Videos

By Randy Lyon

I'm on a mission of selling you something, so here is the repetition which is said to be important to convince someone to buy. Take one or more of the "Revolutionary War in 4 Minutes" videos for a "test drive." You'll find them at: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZrhqv\\_T1O1vPULN8IZ4HukNVCFCjNKRK](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZrhqv_T1O1vPULN8IZ4HukNVCFCjNKRK)

## Burial Services for WWII Veteran Donald A. Stott

By Mike Rowley

On March 25<sup>th</sup>, Iowa Society members travelled to Monticello, Iowa, to participate in the burial services of Navy Seaman First Class Donald A. Stott. At the age of 19, Stott lost his life aboard the USS Oklahoma at Pearl Harbor. His remains were recently identified through advancements in DNA testing.



*Left to right: Matt Schwalm, Doug Slauson, Mike Rowley, Dave Nation, Randy Lyon, and Larry Hoelscher*

## Reinterment Ceremony for War or 1812 Veteran Lt. Gabriel Field



*The Friends of Fort Atkinson living history volunteers and Color Guard Commander Mike Rowley at Ft. Atkinson*

On Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, a full military burial was held at Fort Atkinson, Nebraska, for Lt. Gabriel Field.

Lt. Field served in the Kentucky Volunteers and Kentucky Militia during the War of 1812. He later served at Fort Atkinson from 1818 to 1823. A portion of his original headstone was found by John "Jack" Rathjen in 1954 while plowing a field, and since then his remains have been exhumed and finally reinterred at Fort Atkinson on the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death.

## Members Install Four Veteran Gravestones in April

By Mike Rowley

Members installed four more veteran gravestones: WWI Veteran Richard E. McLaughlin in Woodland Cemetery, Civil War Veteran Dr. Dudley W. Stewart buried in Woodland Cemetery, Civil War Veteran David D. Deselms buried near Mingo, Iowa, and Civil War Veteran John Sanders, buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery in Des Moines.





## Iowa SAR Supports Local Decorated World War I Veteran

By Randy Lyon

Michael Spautz approached me recently about helping him on an important project. Michael is the grandson of Matthew Spautz, a hero of World War I and the recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross. He wondered if I would help him get his grandfather's name on a soon-to-be-renamed local park.

Sergeant Spautz served with Company A, 168<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 42<sup>nd</sup> Division (the Rainbow Division) of the American Expeditionary Forces near the Ourcq River, northeast of Chateau-Thierry, France. When the commander of the unit became ill, Spautz was assigned to lead the advance of July 30<sup>th</sup>, 1918. While in command of his platoon, Sergeant Spautz was wounded twice, but continued until hit a third time. He then refused to leave the field until the last wounded man of his platoon had been sent to the aid station. He died en route to the hospital. He was 19 years old.

Using the information given to me by Michael, I wrote the application and submitted it to the Park and Recreation Commission. On March 10<sup>th</sup>, Michael and I were notified that our application, one of 103 names submitted, had been accepted as a semi-finalist.

I wrote an email to the chairperson expressing our honor at being a semi-finalist. Speaking on behalf of the SAR, I expressed my appreciation that the Commission had among its semi-finalists two Distinguished Service Cross veterans as well as the name of a World War II veteran. I expressed our appreciation as an organization dedicated to our veterans and to those who remember their service.

As of this writing, the Park and Recreation Commission has taken the issue under advisement.

## Stark Report: Congratulations, Iowa!

By Randy Lyon

The Iowa SAR has been chosen to receive the USS Stark Memorial Award for most active chapter with over 200 members, another USS Stark Memorial Award for most active state society with less than 1,000 members, and a State Veterans Service Award. These awards will be presented at the 2023 Congress to be held this summer in Orlando, Florida.

The Stark Report is an evaluative tool from the National Society to show us how well we are working in support of our veterans. This was the first year the Iowa Society submitted a report. The actual report was eight pages long and included service to a VA Hospital Council, service in a VA Hospital, visits to a veteran in a hospital, donated gifts to veterans in a hospital, financial donations to any organization whose primary clients were veterans, publications donated to organizations dealing primarily with veterans, participation in the SAR Wounded Warriors program, activities with other organizations supporting veterans, decorating veteran's graves and attendance at funerals, and donations of clothing or working items to veterans' organizations. In addition to the eight page report, we offered seven typed pages of supporting and supplemental detail.

Thanks to everyone in the Iowa SAR for your contributions in bringing this honor home! We're looking forward to 2023 in fulfilling our goals of being a blessing to our veterans.

## Flag Certificate Presentations in Dubuque, Iowa

By Randy Lyon



John H. Hansen, a resident of Asbury, Iowa, lives on a street with three neighbors who also fly flags. He thanked us for our project.



George Kotz of Asbury is one of many people in his subdivision who have added flagpoles to his yard. He was surprised by the certificate and thanked me for taking the time.



The home was listed in the name of Leo Dietz. When I found out that he had died, I promised his wife, Arlene, to bring another certificate in her name.



Charles J. Butcher lives right between Asbury and Dubuque and prominently flies an American flag viewed by hundreds of cars passing daily. While backing up to get out of his driveway was harrowing, the welcome and appreciation for the certificate more than made up for it. This is a popular program!



Kirk Minard is a big fan of flying the American flag and was very surprised when he received a certificate honoring him. He was also very pleased and said, "Thanks!"

## Your IASSAR Board of Managers

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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.*