



## The Iowa Compatriot

The Journal of the Iowa Society, Sons of the American Revolution  
September 1, 2017

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State President Alan Wenger(left) and ISSAR Color Guard member Jon Verner of Des Moines participated in the **2017 Iowa State Fair Parade** held on August 9. As in years past, we joined in with the local and state DAR chapters, at their invitation. It started at about 6:30 PM with a temperature of about 80 degrees. But it was overcast for most of the walk so we didn't suffer too much in our wool uniforms. The crowds along the parade route were very enthusiastic and receptive...waving, applauding, and cheering as we passed. We all had a good time.

## Save the Date: October 14 – IASSAR Fall Meeting

The IASSAR Fall Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 14, at Bennigan's Restaurant, 4800 Merlehay Rd., Urbandale, IA. Details will be forthcoming.



## American Legion Coin - Your Help Needed

The American Legion is working toward a commemorative coin for its 100th Anniversary. This coin would be struck by the US Mint and would not only commemorate the 100th Anniversary, but also a fundraiser to help pay for the activities surrounding the celebration.

In order for the mint to strike the coin, authorization must be given by the US Congress. A maximum of two coins are struck each year. Right now, the two choices for the next coin are The American Legion and the NBA Hall of Fame. We need all of our Senators and Representatives to sign as co-sponsors of the legislation to authorize the coin. That has happened in the House but in the Senate, neither Sen. Grassley nor Sen. Ernst have put their name on the legislation. **WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH THAT.**

Please contact Sen. Grassley's office and Sen Ernst's office and ask them to sign on as co-sponsor of S. 1182. Sen Grassley's office number is 202-224-3744 and Sen. Ernst office is 202-224-3254. You can [click here](#) to send a prepared message to them through The American Legion.

If you see either of them during the July 4 recess, please address this subject with them. Also, if you see Representatives Blum, Loebsack, Young or King, thank them for their support. **DON'T WAIT! CONTACT THEM TODAY!**

Thank you.

# Patriot Focus: Robert Townsend and David Lamb

Submitted by Mike Rowley

As members of the Iowa Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, we are almost by definition proud of our ancestors for their contributions to the founding of the United States of America.

Most of us have researched our own ancestors but often know very little about fellow member's family contributions. Having served in the past as the Registrar for IASSAR I had the pleasure of seeing the documentation of many members Patriots.

I thought it was past due time for me to share some of these with my fellow Iowa SAR Compatriots.

I can think of no better stories, both past and present to start with than Robert Townsend one of the Patriots of IASSAR member and VietNam veteran David Lamb as well as Rick Lamb the nephew of our David.

The writings below are the works of others more versed than I.

Mike Rowley



**Robert Townsend**

**Only surviving portrait of Robert Townsend**

**Codename(s)** **Samuel Culper, Jr.**

**723**

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<b>Born</b>	<b>November 25, 1753</b> <b>Oyster Bay, New York</b>
<b>Died</b>	<b>March 7, 1838 (aged 84)</b>
<b>Nationality</b>	<b>American</b>
<b>Religion</b>	<b>Quaker</b>
<b>Children</b>	<b>Robert Townsend, Jr.</b>

**A number of factors led Townsend to the Culper Spy Ring, including the influence of [Thomas Paine's Common Sense](#), British harassment of his family, and his relationship with Woodhull.**

**Townsend's Quaker upbringing placed him at odds with the thought of fighting the British forces occupying America. Strict Quaker philosophy called for an adherence to [pacifism](#). In**

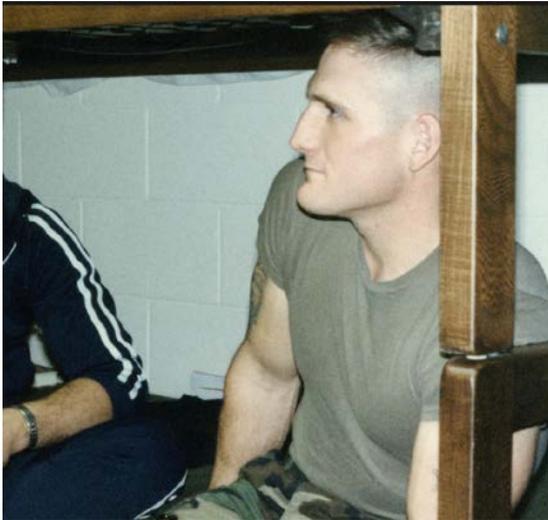
*this case, violence was prohibited. However, [Pennsylvania](#) experienced a break between "political" Quakers and "religious" Quakers during the 1750s. Essentially, the latter accused the former of breaking with traditional values, resulting in the resigning of "political" Quakers from office and leading to a wave of purification within the Quaker movement. The renewed and obedient Quakers pledged to embrace non-violence and to never revolt against a legal government. Thus, Quakers emerged as the strongest supporters of British rule.<sup>[9]</sup>*

*Townsend was torn between his moderate-Quaker upbringing and this fervent Quaker revival, but he ultimately turned his back on pacifism as a result of Thomas Paine's pamphlet *Common Sense*. Paine had also been brought up in the Quaker tradition, and he advocated in *Common Sense* the early Quaker views of struggling against corruption and narcissism. However, Paine also advocated resistance as the means to achieve those goals, putting him directly at odds with the newly reformed Quaker movement. Paine argued that the pacifists-at-any-price were not authentic Quakers. His pamphlet inspired a small number of Quakers to join the struggle against Britain, including Townsend. Thus, a few months after Paine's pamphlet was published, Townsend volunteered for a logistics post in the [Continental Army](#), which would not require him to kill.<sup>[10]</sup>*

*Another factor that led to Townsend joining the fight against British rule was the treatment of his family by British soldiers in Oyster Bay. A number of British officers thought that anti-British sentiment had been ingrained into the colonists' spirit, and they believed that "it should be thrash'd out of them [because] [New England](#) has poyson'd the whole."<sup>[11]</sup> This led to numerous incidents of violence and pillage directed at colonists. On November 19, 1778, one such instance drove Townsend to the [Patriot](#) cause.<sup>[12]</sup> Colonel [John Graves Simcoe](#) of the [Queen's Rangers](#) and roughly 300 of his men were stationed in Oyster Bay during the winter months. Simcoe took the Townsend home as his headquarters, and he and his men used the home when and however they wanted. Townsend's father Samuel was distraught after his prized apple orchard was torn down by Simcoe's men. Adding to the insult, the Townsends were forced to swear [allegiance to the King](#) or go to prison.<sup>[13]</sup>*

*A final factor was Townsend's relationship with [Abraham Woodhull](#). Woodhull knew Townsend as a result of their both lodging at a boarding house run by Woodhull's brother-in-law. Woodhull was also a descendant of Oyster Bay's founder Captain [John Underhill](#), and Townsend may have been directed to the boardinghouse by Underhill. Woodhull may have also known about Townsend's father's Whiggish political beliefs, as he was well known throughout Long Island.<sup>[14]</sup> Woodhull as a recruiter, and Townsend as the recruited, knew and trusted each other well enough by June 1779, that Townsend eagerly accepted when Woodhull made his pitch to Townsend to join a new spy ring for Washington.<sup>[15]</sup>*

**AND**



June 30th, 2017, by chamashin

**On 28 June 2017, a quiet professional and Special Operations Forces (SOF) legend was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame. The name Rick Lamb is well known among older soldiers in Special Forces and the Ranger Regiment but the average person in the SOF enterprise has no idea who he is and what he has done for his nation.**

**Rick Lamb was born and raised in Iowa in a family with extensive history in military service, and that legacy guided a young man through one of the most amazing careers in military history. In 1978 at the**

**age of 18, Rick enlisted in the Iowa National Guard where he was encouraged by the unit's Noncommissioned Officers (NCO) and Vietnam Veterans to go on active duty. Following his heart, Rick joined the U.S. Army under the Airborne Ranger option, and completed Infantry Advanced Individual Training and Airborne Training at Ft. Benning, Georgia--starting him on his journey.**

**Upon graduation, he was assigned to the 1st Ranger Battalion, Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia, and it was this tour in 1/75<sup>th</sup> Rangers that changed him. He was involved in the Ranger's first integration of motorcycles, vehicles, and fixed wing aircraft, and development of missions, relationships, tactics, techniques, and procedures that survive to this day. Then, in 1980, Corporal Lamb supported Operation Eagle Claw (Iranian hostage rescue mission) during which he got his first taste of combat operations.**



***In 1984, then Staff Sergeant (SSG) Lamb was assigned to the United Nations Command Support Group – Joint Security Area (UNCSG-JSA) at Pan Mun Jom, Korea. Korea was the first of many overseas assignments and while there Rick met the love of his life--wife Heiran--who became a tremendous partner in life and a solid base for Rick to lean on and often his “Care Giver” while recovering from wounds and injuries. Rick also fell in love with the Korean culture and people (and is actually currently assigned there, again).***

***In 1984 in Korea’s Joint Security Area there were two military camps: Camp Liberty Bell and Camp Kitty Hawk. They are separated by a road and each camp had separate dining facilities with different menus. Like soldiers do, every day they would look at each dining facility’s menu to determine which camp had the best offerings. On 23 November 1984, Rick’s Platoon leadership decided to go across the road for lunch, leaving SSG Lamb in charge of the Quick Reaction Platoon.***

***On that day, Vasilii Yakovlevich Matuzok--a twenty-two year old translator in the Soviet embassy in Pyongyang, ran south across the Military Demarcation Line in a bid to defect. As the North Korean guards who had been escorting him pursued him into South Korea, small arms fire killed a South Korean soldier and wounded a U.S. soldier. Within minutes, approximately 40 North Korean People’s Army soldiers crossed the border with weapons and began searching for the Soviet defector.***



***In the absence of the Platoon Leader, SSG Lamb led a Quick Reaction Force platoon that faced intense enemy small arms fire and ultimately killed several North Koreans, secured the Soviet defector, and expelled the remaining North Koreans from the southern sector of the JSA. For his actions SSG Lamb was awarded a Silver Star and the Combat Infantryman’s Badge.***

***SSG Lamb went next to the Special Forces Qualification Course and was assigned to Company C, 3d Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), at Fort Davis, Republic of Panama, which was located on the Atlantic side of the canal. On 20 December 1989, Operation Just Cause began. Rick’s team conducted helicopter assaults against critical targets at the Controlaria building outside of Panama City. Recently promoted SFC Lamb led a four-man assault team that destroyed the transmitters and antennas of the AM and FM radio stations of Radio Nacional. For his accomplishments Rick was awarded the Bronze Star.***

***Shortly after Operation Just Cause, 3d Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) was directed to redeploy the majority of the battalion to Fort Bragg as part of the US reduction in forces in Panama – a sad day for Special Forces. Rick knew that with the loss of the majority of the battalion, things would never be the same so he started thinking about life after Panama. While still in Panama, he learned the LTG (Ret) Dave Grange was there on the Pacific side, and as his old boss and mentor Rick drove over to meet with General Grange.***

***While talking, the General asked Rick what he was going to do next. Rick told him that he had submitted countless DA 4187 forms to return to the Ranger Regiment but was denied every time. General Grange turned to his Command Sergeant Major and***

**directed him to get SFC Lamb assigned to the Ranger Regiment, making him the first person in modern US history to serve in both regiments.**

**With new orders, Rick was assigned to the 3d Ranger Battalion. In 1993 Rick was a member of Task Force Ranger in Mogadishu, Somalia, and that October he fought in a savage 12-hour street battle to rescue beleaguered comrades trapped in the city. Leading an un-armored Ranger security element that consisted of cooks, clerks and support personnel, he refused medical evacuation and continued to fight for seven hours after being gravely wounded – he was shot in the head.**



**He received a Joint Service Commendation Medal with “V” device and the Purple Heart and was shipped back to the US for surgery and recovery. It didn’t take long for him to recover, and afterwards, Rick asked to be assigned to 3rd Special Forces Group (A) so he could go back to focusing on the African and Caribbean Areas of Operation.**

**In 1994, then Master Sergeant (MSG) Lamb participated in Operations Restore, Uphold, and**

**Maintain Democracy in Haiti. Working with governmental, non-governmental, and private volunteer organizations, MSG Lamb was responsible for the administration of over 40,000 inhabitants and was critical to returning law, order, government, and infrastructure to the southern half of the island. This peacekeeping operation later became the basis for the successful execution of the African Crisis Response Initiative (ACRI).**

**If you stand near Rick Lamb long enough, something will happen. Looking for more adventure and the opportunity to experience another culture, Rick took the assignment to 1/10th Special Forces Group (A) in Stuttgart, Germany, where then Sergeant Major (SGM) Lamb led the U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) Commander’s In-Extremis Force (CIF) during a critical period of its development as a world class capability, executing numerous, no-fail, immediate response, sensitive missions, including support to Operations Joint Forge, Joint Endeavor, and Noble Anvil in the Balkans. The CIF was constantly deployed to Africa and the Balkans, often splitting and going in both direction simultaneously – a leadership challenge that Rick embraced.**

**During his final active duty assignment, from January through April 2003, then Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Lamb was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) forward deployed in Jordan. As the battalion CSM, he ensured his men were resourced, rehearsed, and prepared for imminent combat operations in Iraq. CSM Lamb pushed to incorporate conventional forces into all facets of planning, understanding that the security of his men was dependent on their ability to remain mobile and not get decisively engaged with large enemy forces. He requested and received augmentation from the 2d Battalion, 124th Infantry Regiment and Florida Army National Guard, training them in indirect fire operations to support**

***breaching the border obstacles on D-Day, as well as Enemy Prisoner of War handling operations and combined arms live fire.***

***Following his retirement from the U.S. Army, Mr. Lamb looked for work. Rick wanted to “humble himself,” so for the first six months after retirement Rick dug ditches. Yep, you read that right. He told the hiring agency that he wanted to do manual, back-breaking labor in the Florida heat. After six months of ditch digging he decided to take a job with U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) at MacDill Air Force Base as an Intelligence Analyst, where serving his nation as a Civil Servant. Rick worked hard and lead the development of the Special Operations Joint Intelligence Collection System, as a plank owner of the Global Special Operations Forces Network Operational Planning Team (OPT).***



***The OPT was directed to do a lot, but bar none the biggest challenge was the integration of the international SOF partners that were being assigned to***

***USSOCOM. Rick was pulled out of his duties and directed to build a world class facility in the heart of USSOCOM that ensured the integration of our SOF partners, allowed for their national communication systems, and allotted space to plan multinational operations. It might sound like a simple mission, but the weight of the rules and regulations that must be complied with could sink a small island. Rick navigated through obstacles from multiple agencies to de-SCIF the workspace and have it accredited to national standards. As a result of those efforts, Mr. Lamb was designated USSOCOM’s 2012 Civilian of the Year.***

***CSM (Ret) Lamb’s career defines the special operations ethos, and is on his own a history of USSOCOM in microcosm: eight major combat operations on five continents; through the post-Vietnam era--from Operation Eagle Claw and the creation of USSOCOM through the Global War on Terror; and in two Ranger battalions, four Special Forces Groups, and numerous staff assignments. He was the first non-commissioned officer selected to “cross-walk” between the Special Forces and the Ranger Regiment, setting what should be the standard for future generations of special operators.***



*Wounded in combat and twice decorated for valor and gallantry in action, his contributions to the Nation are unparalleled. In Korea, he received the Silver Star and Combat Infantryman's Badge for leading a quick reaction force into the Demilitarized Zone to expel a North Korean incursion. In Panama, he led a Ranger Rifle Company as a non-commissioned officer – a feat not accomplished since the Vietnam era – on an operation which captured 188 hostile prisoners, led to the surrender of an entire military zone, and earned him a Bronze Star. He has been the SOCOM Employee of the Year and in 2015 he received the coveted Bull Simons Award.*

*He has also been inducted into the Commando Hall of Fame and, just this week, the Ranger Hall of Fame.*



**Have you looked at the IASSAR Website Lately? Stay up-to-date with all IASSAR activities.** [www.iassar.org](http://www.iassar.org)

### **Contribute to *The Iowa Compatriot!***

This is your newsletter, covering all activities and programs of the IASSAR. To keep it alive and vibrant, we need you to contribute stories about SAR events happening in your part of the state. The stories need not be long. However, they do need to reflect the ideals of the SAR, and how our Iowa compatriots support them. Sharing what we do will help unify our membership. Please send your stories to me. We'd love to print your photos as well! My email address is [dlfrazer@yahoo.com](mailto:dlfrazer@yahoo.com). If you would prefer to use the USPS to mail your news items and photos, address them to me at:

Doug Frazer  
4410 Skyline Drive  
Des Moines, IA 50310

Thanks. Hope to hear from you soon!  
Doug Frazer, editor

### **In Memoriam: IASSAR Compatriots**

John Robert Donahue	1 Nov 1933 – 15 Mar 2017
Edward Sharp	6 Jan 1948 – 21 Jan 2017
David Francis McCann	5 Nov 1928 – 29 Feb 2016

### **Your IASSAR Board of Managers**

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