



The Iowa Compatriot

The Journal of the Iowa Society, Sons of the American Revolution August 17, 2021

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.

America 250 DAR Marker Dedication in Knoxville, Iowa

By Chris Moberg

On Sunday, July 25, 2021, Color Guard members from Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska joined the Henry Knox Chapter of the DAR to dedicate an America 250 Patriot Marker in Knoxville, Iowa. The city and the DAR chapter were named after General Henry Knox, and the ceremony took place on his 271st birthday. This bronze plaque mounted on a post was the first America 250 Patriot Marker to be placed in Iowa and was installed between the cannon and the veteran's memorial in the courthouse square.

The DAR was very grateful to have Color Guard members from the North Central District participate in the event and looks forward to working together on many more events in the future!



Left to right: Mike Rowley (IASSAR), Sr. Vice Commander Corey (VFW), Paul Burrignt (NESSAR), Bob Niffenegger (IA SUVCW), Chris Moberg (MNSAR), Jim Sly (NESSAR), and Dawn Baldwin (bagpiper)

John Kite Receives Certificate of Appreciation

By Mike Rowley

A certificate of appreciation was presented to John Kite, owner and operator of the Village Blacksmith in West Des Moines, Iowa. Mr. Kite has a long history of donating his time, materials, and blacksmithing skills to benefit veterans. He recently made four flag stakes for the Iowa SAR to allow them to post their flags at events to honor veterans and their families.



Mike Rowley presents a certificate of appreciation to John Kite

Agent Orange Awareness Night

By Chris Moberg



On August 10, 2021, IASSAR Color Guard Commander Mike Rowley represented the SAR at the 2nd annual Agent Orange Awareness Night in Des Moines, Iowa. On August 10, 1961, "Agent Orange" was sprayed in Vietnam as a defoliant. Since then, thousands of Vietnam veterans have died or become ill due to exposure to Agent Orange.

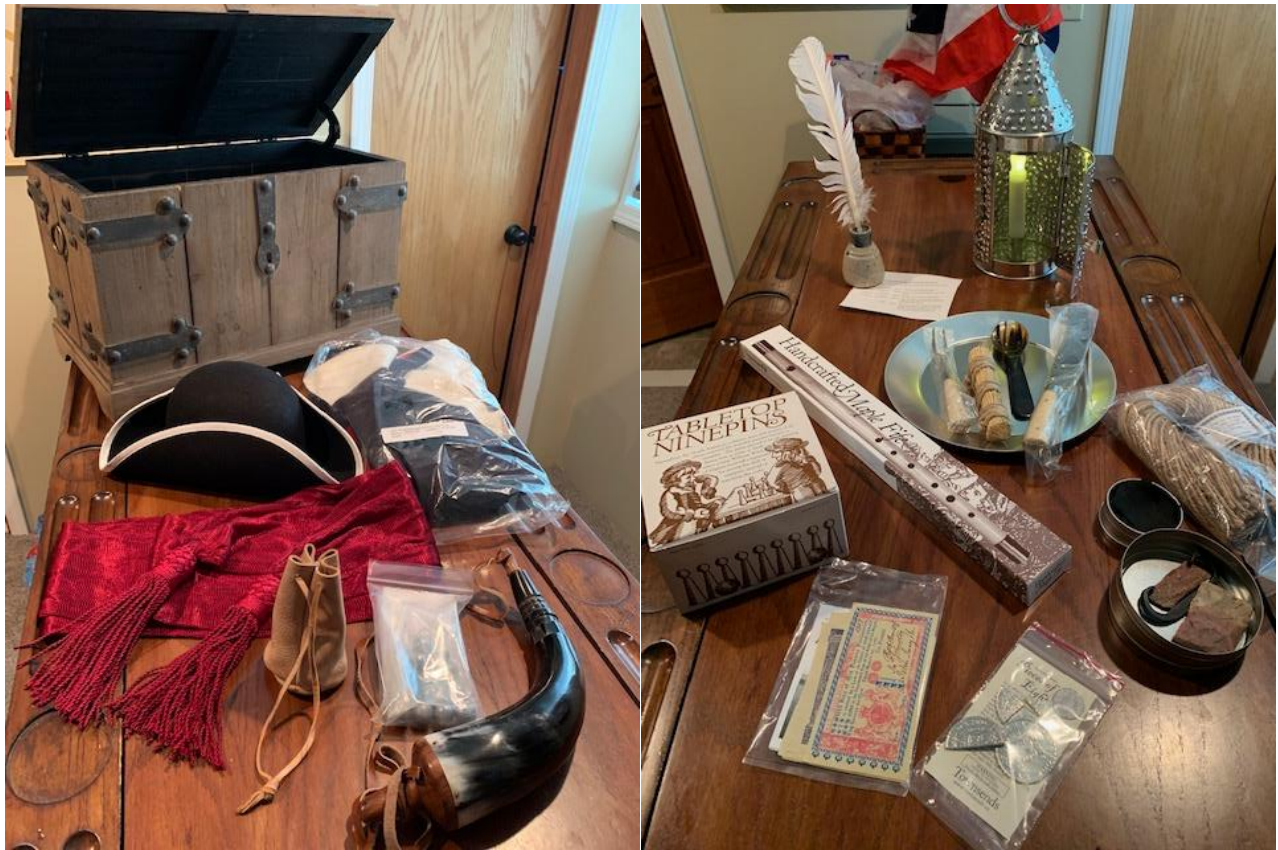
The Iowa Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall on the State Capitol Grounds was lit in orange candlelight to bring awareness of the continued need for research and funding necessary to ensure that veterans who suffer from exposure to Agent Orange receive proper treatment. For more information, see www.vvmf.org/ao-2021/.

SAR Patriot Chest

By Chris Moberg

The North Central District (Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and the Dakotas) of the SAR is holding monthly Zoom meetings. For the July 22, 2021 Zoom meeting, the topic was the SAR Patriot Chest. The Patriot Chest is a chest full of Revolutionary War era items that can be used to explain to children (and adults) what life was like during the American Revolution. Members from the Minnesota and Nebraska societies displayed various objects and demonstrated how to use them to educate children. One of the presenters, Nebraska Color Guard Commander Chad Sherrets, shared pictures of the Omaha, Nebraska Patriot Chest that are shown below.

The next district Zoom meeting will be on August 31 at 7 PM, where we will once again discuss various items from the Patriot Chest. If you would like to know more about the Patriot Chest program, please feel free to attend the meeting. For information about how to join the Zoom meeting, contact Doug Frazer.



Patriot Chest used by the Omaha Chapter of the SAR to teach schoolchildren about the Revolutionary War

Grave Marking Ceremony of Civil War Veteran William Dysart

By Mike Rowley

On July 29, 2021, a ceremony was held to mark the grave of William Dysart, a Civil War veteran buried in a previously unmarked grave in Glendale Cemetery in Des Moines, Iowa. Those joining in the ceremony included Ben Page (Parks and Recreation director), Ganesh Ganpat (Parks and Recreation supervisor), Cynthia O'Brien and Kristine Bartley (Citizen Cemetery Advisory Committee members), Angela Connolly and Matt McCoy (Polk County supervisors), Pat Sweeney (Polk County Veterans Service Officer), and Mike Rowley (IASSAR). The Polk County Commission of Veteran Affairs awarded a one-time gift of \$45,000 for the purchase of a mini excavator, maintenance for equipment, historical research, and volunteer expenses for work associated with veteran graves. The mini excavator will be used at Woodland Cemetery, Laurel Hill Cemetery, and Glendale Cemetery and is shown in the background of the picture below.

The Iowa SAR is proud that member volunteers and donations brought this project to the attention of these organizations. May we continue to work together to ensure the continued remembrance of those temporarily "forgotten."



Left to right: Ben Page, Cynthia O'Brien, Angela Connolly, Pat Sweeney, Ganesh Ganpat, Mike Rowley, Kristine Bartley, name unknown, and Matt McCoy

Remembering IASSAR Member David Alan Shannon



David Alan Shannon, 84, the son of Paul D. and Marquerite (Viken) Shannon, was born July 7, 1937, in Sioux City. Living in the Morningside area, he attended Longfellow, East Junior, and East Senior High School. When he was small, the family lived upstairs in his grandparents' Viken's home and he found great pleasure in riding his car down the stairs. Dave attended the University of Iowa for 1.5 years before joining the U.S. Army in the spring of 1957. Training at Fort Hood, Texas, his group, the 4th Armor Division, was stationed in Furth, Germany for three years. He received an honorable discharge in March of 1960.

On April 3, 1961, Dave was united in marriage with Jeanette Lee Marsh in Sioux City. Dave and Jeanette had two children, Catherine and Patrick, of whom Dave was justifiably proud, as both have grown to be responsible and contributing members of society. After working for a TV repair shop, Dave started working for Zenith at their radio assembly plant in Sioux City. While there, he did a variety of things, from "Peaking" IF cans, to repairing assembly line rejects, doing quality control, and working in the product development lab. In 1967, he joined Sperry Corp., as a computer

technician, working for them as a group leader, field manager, financial manager and logistics (parts) manager, until his retirement in 1991. At this time, the family moved from Sioux City to Lindenhurst, Ill., Union Grove, Wis., Ralston, Neb., and Streamwood, Ill. After retirement, he and Jeanette moved to Altoona and eventually to Newton, to be closer to their daughter and grandchildren. He devoted his life to his family, was active in Boy Scouts as a Webelo Leader, Scout Master and Committeeman for many years. He enjoyed working outdoors, he served on the Streamwood Golf Commission, and he was an avid, though average, golfer. He had a great love of history, especially World War II and the airplanes that were involved in that conflict. He was a member of the Experimental Aircraft Association. He attended the EAA Fantasy Flight camp in Oshkosh, Wis., where he learned about and flew in the B-15 "Aluminum Overcast," which was a highlight of his life and love of WW II aircraft. David died Sunday afternoon, Aug. 8, 2021, at his home. Online condolences may be left for the family at www.pencefh.com.

Woodland Cemetery Volunteers Needed

The Des Moines Parks and Recreation department is looking for volunteers to help clean monuments at Woodland Cemetery. If you are interested, please sign up at www.bit.ly/2021WoodlandMonument. Volunteers who donate eight hours or more in September will be invited to attend a private cemetery tour led by local historian Archie Cook in October.

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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.*