



The Iowa Compatriot

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

Sept. 15, 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.

Flag Retirement Ceremony

By Mike Rowley

It is the custom of the Iowa Society of the SAR to coordinate an annual flag retirement each September and invite the community to participate. This year the event was held on 9-11-2021 at Glendale Cemetery in Des Moines, Iowa. Over 2,500 flags were honorably retired. Iowa Society members Ron Rittel, Tom Gaard, and Mike Rowley were among those who participated.



Left to right: Mike Rowley, Ron Rittel, and Tom Gaard. Photo by Callie Le'au Courtright.

Woodland Cemetery Video Biographies

By Mike Rowley



The donations made by SAR and Society of the War of 1812 members this year have helped continue the marking of veteran graves that were unmarked as well as those whose stones have been damaged over time and needed to be replaced. SAR members also assisted in creating video biographies for the Woodland History Quest project produced by filmmaker Kristine Bartley. This project recently received funding to produce 90 more video biographies of people who were buried in Woodland Cemetery. While the collection includes the biographies of the rich, famous, and infamous, the biographies of common folks are also included. One such biography is that of Arthur Wax.

Arthur Milton Wax was born in Essex, Iowa, and served in World War I. He married at 22 years of age and by the summer of 1934, had a 12-year-old daughter. The relentless heat wave of that summer would claim lives and send others to the hospital. On the 28th of June, 36-year-old Arthur died of sunstroke while digging a ditch on Euclid Avenue in the 100-degree heat.

Arthur's wife, Margaret, was initially awarded restitution, but the employer contested the decision and the money for Arthur's family was denied. Arthur's grave is marked by a small stone and a flag holder as remembrance of his service.

Arthur M. & Berdena King Eagle Scout Award

By Doug Frazer

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (NSSAR) invites all qualified Eagle Scouts interested in the American Revolution to participate in the Arthur M. & Berdena King Eagle Scout competition. The contest is open to all Eagle Scouts who are currently registered in an active Scouting unit and have not reached (or will not reach) their nineteenth birthday during the year of application (January 1 through December 31, 2021).

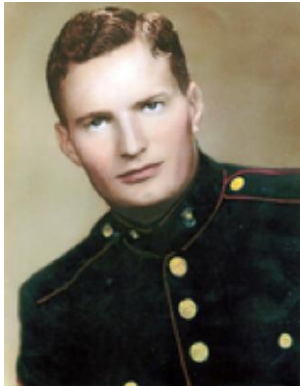
College plans do not have to be completed to receive a cash award. At the national level, several cash awards are given. The National First Place Winner receives \$10,000; the Runner-up receives \$6,000; and the 2nd Runner-up receives \$4,000. (4th place: \$2,000; 5th place: 1,000; 6th - 10th places: \$500; 11th - 15th places: \$300.) A Scout may apply more than one year if he or she meets the age requirements, but not more than \$10,000 total may be granted to any one Eagle Scout. A \$500 cash prize, medal, and handsome trophy will be awarded by the Iowa SAR society (IASSAR) to the winner of the state-level competition. A \$250 cash prize will be awarded to the first runner-up. In recent years, several Iowa state-level winners have placed in the top three in national competition and have won substantial scholarships.

To enter the competition, an Eagle Scout must submit an application form, a four-generation ancestor chart, and a 500-word patriotic-themed essay. Contest entrants need to submit only one application to the Iowa Society SAR. Applicants may not enter directly at the national level. The application of the Iowa winner is automatically entered in national-level competition, held in spring 2022.

The Eagle Scout Application, and Four-Generation Ancestor Chart and Instructions, can be found online at the NSSAR website (<https://www.sar.org/arthur-m-berdena-king-eagle-scout-contest/>). Information for both the application and ancestor chart should be typed directly into the website, and then downloaded and saved to a computer, to achieve a professional appearance. The essay should be written as a Word document and saved to a computer.

The 2021 application deadline is December 31, 2021. The three completed application files ideally should be sent as email attachments. It is also perfectly acceptable to print and send the files via USPS. For more information, contact Doug Frazer at dlfrazer@yahoo.com.

Remembering IASSAR Member Warren Keith Devore



Warren Keith Devore, 89, formerly of Burlington, died at 5:00 AM Thursday, June 17, 2021, surrounded by family at his home in Iowa City.

Born October 18, 1931, in Wapello Township, Louisa County, IA, he was the son of D. Earl and Merle Callaghan Devore. On October 18, 1981, he married Barbara Jean Riney in Burlington. He was a 1949 graduate from Wapello High School. Warren worked 29 years as a Construction Engineer for Iowa Southern Utilities in gas construction, retiring in 1995.

He was a member of Divine Mercy Parish and a dedicated Iowa Hawkeye and St. Louis Cardinals fan. He served as a Corporal for the United States Marines during the Korean War from 1952 to 1954. He was active in coaching boys baseball Little League for 8 years for his son's teams. He coached softball teams for 7 years for his granddaughter's teams and just helping with baseball. He also loved following his grandson's sports at Notre Dame High School. He treasured spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

Remembering IASSAR Member John Frederick Moller, Sr.



John Frederick Moller, Sr., 75, of Johnston, Iowa, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, June 20, 2021 as he celebrated a special Father's Day surrounded by his family. He was born on December 28, 1945 to Ira and Lucille (Hamilton) Moller at Still Hospital in Des Moines. John grew up as a proud "East Sider" and attended East High School before graduating as a Captain from Kemper Military School in Booneville, Missouri.

John is well-known in the Des Moines area not only for his generosity and selflessness but also for his 50-plus years of service in the funeral industry. Following in his grandfather, Lee Hamilton's footsteps, as well as his father's footsteps, he became a third-generation co-owner of Hamilton's Funeral Homes along with his brother, Bill Moller. Through the years, John served his client families with respect, dignity, and grace, providing them with confidence to ensure their every need was met. With the occasional humor thrown in, he soon found himself getting to know families well, as they continued to ask for him when their loved ones died. His passion for the funeral industry as well as caring for the people of Des Moines and surrounding areas is proudly carried on by his son and daughter-in-law, Johnny and Debra, and his daughter, Jaime, who will continue to honor his legacy and well-respected reputation.

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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.*