



## The Iowa Compatriot

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

Jan. 16, 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.*

### Joint Meeting of the IASSAR and Iowa Society of the War of 1812

The Iowa SAR and the Iowa Society of the War of 1812 will hold a joint meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at the Urbandale Public Library. A few of the agenda items include:

- Greeting
- Roll call
- Treasurer's report
- Membership status report
- Old business
  - Veteran grave marking update
  - Wreaths Across America report
  - Other
- New business
  - Ongoing projects
  - New projects for 2022
  - Mexican/American War veteran project
  - Award nominations
  - Officer nominations for May 2022
- Other
- Close

For more information about the meeting, please contact Doug Frazer. We look forward to seeing you there!

### Knight Essay Contest

The George S. and Stella M. Knight Essay Contest is a competition in which high school students write an original essay that is between 800 and 1,200 words on an event, person, philosophy, or ideal associated with the American Revolution, Declaration of Independence, or the framing of the United States Constitution. The best essay from each state society moves on to the national SAR competition, where the third place winner receives \$1,000, the second place winner receives \$2,500, and the first place winner receives \$5,000 and up to \$500 in travel expenses to attend the annual SAR Congress.

The Iowa SAR received two entries for the Knight Essay Contest this year. Ten Iowa SAR members served as judges and rated each essay according to five criteria: historical accuracy, clarity of thought, organization, grammar and spelling, and documentation. We are pleased to announce that this year's winner is Gretchen Ellerbroek, of Waverly Iowa, for her excellent essay entitled "The Defenders of Liberty." We congratulate Gretchen on this outstanding accomplishment and wish her great success in the national competition.

## December 2021 Flag Certificate Presentations in Dubuque, Iowa

Randy Lyon is an IASSAR member, the author of “Dubuque: The Encyclopedia,” and the maintainer of the Encyclopedia Dubuque website ([www.encyclopediadubuque.org](http://www.encyclopediadubuque.org)). Dubuque is a three-hour drive from the in-person meetings in Des Moines, so up until recently it was difficult for him to participate in Iowa SAR activities. However, with the advent of monthly district Zoom meetings in 2021, Randy has been a regular online participant in the SAR. At our December 16 Zoom meeting, he learned that one thing a member can do to impact their community is to present flag certificates to individuals, companies, and government agencies that fly the United States flag for patriotic purposes. Not wasting any time, Randy contacted Doug Frazer and, within in a few days, had a stack of flag certificates to present. Not long after, Mike Rowley even shipped him a Color Guard uniform to wear while presenting them!

Randy provided the following pictures and report of his adventures in Dubuque presenting flag certificates at the end of December:



Don and Connie Henkes take their patriotism seriously. Their flag is flown daily in front of their westside Dubuque residence.



Christina Robinson was thrilled at the idea of seeing an organization sponsoring recognition of flying the flag. She hopes the program encourages others to follow her example.



Jeff Allen met Compatriot Randy Lyon at the door wearing a patriotic cap. It took little explanation of the recognition program to get him to proudly sign up.



Dennis Biedler considered receiving the SAR certificate a distinct honor. He and his wife feel strongly about the nation and are proud to display their flag. They pointed out another flag being flown and asked that I be sure to contact that person too.



Travelers along Highway 52 south to Bellevue from Dubuque cannot miss the flag flown by Tom Carroll. It might take a bit longer for him to reach the flag from his house, but the cliffside display is sure to catch the attention of travelers along this scenic bit of eastern Iowa landscape.



The proud flag waving daily in the breeze is but one example of the patriotism shown by the staff of the Badger-Hawkeye Unit of the American Red Cross in Dubuque. One of the units qualified to offer apheresis, the collection of platelets generally for cancer patients, the unit helps to maintain the nation's blood supply. Compatriot Randy Lyon recently made his 605<sup>th</sup> donation, equal to 75 gallons of blood/platelets.



In addition to being one of Dubuque's most popular restaurants, Village Inn goes that extra step of flying one of the city's larger American flags. Located along busy Kennedy Road, this flag is seen by thousands of drivers and their passengers daily.



Janet Warren is the director of Luther Manor care facilities in Dubuque and Asbury, Iowa. Janet knows that hundreds of weekly visitors and the residents (including military veterans) appreciate seeing the flag right in front of the facilities.



Displaying the flag is something Michael May does daily at the Carnegie-Stout Museum in Dubuque. In addition to the physical flag, Mike has metaphorically displayed the flag as a research assistant who jumped at the unique opportunity of placing an encyclopedia of Dubuque history on the Internet. What began as 1,500 entries and five hundred pictures has risen since 1985 to thousands of entries, thousands of pictures, and a worldwide viewership with over 640,000 “hits.”



Kennedy Mall was Iowa's first enclosed climate-controlled mall when it opened in 1970. Mall management then and now continues to daily raise a large American flag—an action which continues to set it apart from many contemporary shopping centers.



The service of Roy Buol to the City of Dubuque has been nothing less than legendary. Elected to the city council in 1995, he began serving as mayor in 2005. Leading efforts to increase sustainability, he has been profiled in numerous national publications for his work in city revitalization and in 2010 he was named one of Connected Magazine's Top Ten M2M (Machine to Machine) Pioneers. The owner of a large lot facing two streets in Dubuque, he and his wife have two flags—one in the front of the house and another in the backyard with accompanying lights.



The largest flag in Dubuque flies from a hill on the city's westside over Perkins restaurant. The 20' by 30' flag usually takes the manager and another employee to actually raise the flag, which is illuminated.

## January 2022 Flag Certificate Presentations in Dubuque, Iowa

To ring in the new year, Randy Lyon provided these additional pictures and report of his adventures in Dubuque presenting flag certificates in early January:



Hotel Julien Dubuque--An American flag has flown over this Dubuque landmark and its predecessors for over 100 years. **The manager of the hotel, Dwight Hopsuaf, was so honored by the flag certificate presentation that he posted five pictures of the occasion on their hotel Facebook page!**



Dubuque Veterans Freedom Center—A site for veterans to relax and enjoy the company of other vets, the Center provides a fascinating museum and all types of rehabilitation equipment.



The daughter of this proud flag displayer arranged for a surprise for her father, Bruce Miller, on my first visit to his home.



The wife of Ray Owensby set up a time for me to revisit when he would be sure to be home.

If you would like to find out more about the possibility of presenting flag certificates in your community, please contact Doug Frazer.

### 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.*