



## The Iowa Compatriot

The Journal of the Iowa Society, Sons of the American Revolution Mar. 14, 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 p.m. on Wednesday, March 30, 2022 at the Urbandale Public Library. The Dodge Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War will meet afterwards at 7 p.m. For more information about the meeting, please contact Doug Frazer. We look forward to seeing you there!

### Flag Certificate Presentation in Cedar Falls, Iowa



Dave Nation presented a flag certificate to Jerry Harris, Chief Operating Officer of Western Home Communities in Cedar Falls, Iowa on the morning of February 22, 2022. Many of the Western Home buildings display the flag. The organization was very proud to receive the flag certificate and posted a picture on their Facebook and Instagram accounts. Dave is a resident of Western Home Communities and enjoys seeing the American flag flying every day outside of the fitness center that he uses.

### COYOPLE Family History Presentation in Dubuque, Iowa

By Randy Lyon



The March meeting of COYOPLE (Congregational Young People) met with me as a presenter.

I spoke to the group of about 20 for nearly 45 minutes on the importance of gathering family history, differences between ancestor-based historical societies (active membership or certificate on the wall membership, both of which are worthy), and my experiences “proving up” on different relatives. I related my experience finding my direct ancestor, Archelaus Fuller, and his war activities. I volunteered to help anyone interested in pursuing their history if they would supply as many names and dates as they could. I also covered my current activities making flag and outstanding citizenship presentations.

A copy of the February SAR newsletter was distributed as an example of an ancestor-based society which offers its members many opportunities to contribute. The idea of certificates for flying the American flag and outstanding citizenship were applauded.

The presentation began a spirited discussion among those present. It sounds like I may have my work cut out for me.

## March Outstanding Citizenship Presentations in Dubuque, Iowa

By Randy Lyon



In 1974, Jan Hess became the Administrative Assistant to the Dubuque County Board of Supervisors and County Personnel Director.

Jan served on the board of directions of the Dubuque Community Food Pantry, People in Need Foundation, Project Concern/Phone-a-Friend, Inc, Iowa Association of Hospitals & Health Systems, and Substance Abuse Services Center. She was the management chair of the Dubuque Area Labor-Management Council, vice chairperson of the Community Health Systems Board for Mercy Health Center, and secretary of the Area Council of Governments and the Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency. Jan was the past president of the Dubuque Area

Congregations United Outreach Committee for St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Jan received the Labor-Management Partnership Award for the Courthouse Landscaping Project and in 1997 she was named the recipient of the First Citizen Award from the Telegraph Herald, Dubuque's local newspaper. She chaired the Sesquicentennial Committee for Dubuque County and was a leading force in the development of **Faith and Fortunes: An Encyclopedia of Dubuque County** whose sales funded projects for the seven local historical societies in the county.



Barbara Smeltzer became an elementary school teacher in the Dubuque Community School District in 1966. She served on various committees for the Dubuque Education Association as well as the organization's vice-president in 1973-1974 and president in 1974-1975.

Barbara was a member of the Integration Study Committee in 1987, Accommodation Strategies for the Mildly Handicapped Committee for the Keystone Area Education Agency from 1987 to 1989, Cooperating Teachers' Advisory Board, and the Tri-College Education Advisory Board. She is a member and past officer of Delta Kappa Gamma, a society of women educators. She was the first woman to chair the Iowa Professional Teaching Practices Commission. Appointed to the commission in 1975 by Governor Robert Ray, she served two consecutive terms until 1981 including two years as

secretary and one as the chairperson.

Among her community commitments, Barbara served as chairperson of the Dubuque Area Campaign and the Dubuque Area Alumni Events Committee for the University of Dubuque in 1990. In the same year, she was elected to the university's Alumni Board of Directors. A member of the university's Dubuque Heritage Society, Smeltzer co-chaired the University of Dubuque Campaign in 1988 and 1989 and established and funded the R.O.T.C. scholarship for outstanding cadets in the University of Dubuque R.O.T.C. program. She was a member and past officer of P.E.O., Order of Eastern Star, and the American Legion Auxiliary. She was also past board member and Mother Advisor for the Order of Rainbow for Girls.

Barbara served ten years as secretary of the Dubuque County Republican Central Committee and in 1991 was co-chair of the Dubuque County Republican Central Committee and a member of the Second Congressional District Executive Committee. In 1974 she chaired the Teachers for (Tom) Tauke Committee. She chaired the Lipsky for Lieutenant Governor Committee in Dubuque County during 1986 and the Nussle for Congress Committee in 1990. Smeltzer was a former Finance Committee chair for the Dubuque County Republican Central Committee and a member of the county's Precinct Development Committee. She was research director for the Pfaff for State Senate and the Citizens for Walters for Representative campaigns. From 2010 to 2020 she served as the Undergraduate Student Resources Advisor at the University of Dubuque.



Not many people would be able to say they led efforts to save a portion of their community from drug use and violence. Joseph Noll's neighbors and the City of Dubuque would agree he did just such a thing.

After years of working for the Area Residential Care facility in Dubuque helping to educate the physically and mentally challenged in Dubuque, Joe recognized the area in which he lived had gradually changed from the place he raised his kids. An area near his home had once been the city's first cemetery. The city expanded to the north and residents succeeded in having the burials relocated. The grounds had been landscaped and converted into a

tranquil place for picnics and family gatherings. A gazebo which once occupied the center of what was then called Jackson Park was used for political speeches and music concerts.

Joe recognized that this idyllic site had gradually become a site for drug use. Police were regularly called to break up fights. Joe became a charter member of the Jackson Park Neighborhood Association. His regular appearances before the city council were followed with cameras being installed around the area. Increased police presence was established. Neighborhood get-togethers were arranged with activities for all ages.

Perhaps the biggest event planned by Joe and the Association was the effort to use history to remind the neighbors of the special past this area possessed. Money was raised. A replica of cemetery gates was constructed, and two signs were posted with pictures from the park's past. A gala celebration was held complete with Sac and Fox tribal members returning from Tama, Iowa, to their native lands. Among the speeches that day, one person said, "Every neighborhood needs a Joe Noll." Nothing more true can be said.

As expected, Joe was quick to acknowledge that lots of other people worked together in the rebirth of his neighborhood. But as he shook my hand he quietly said, "Many thanks to the Sons of the American Revolution for this wonderful award."

## Remembering IASSAR Compatriot Douglas E. Ruby

Douglas Ruby, age 51, passed away at his home on Saturday, February 12, 2022. Born in Des Moines, Iowa, he was the son of Dennis and Marsheila (Dunham) Ruby on February 19, 1970.

Doug had a passion for education and loved teaching. He taught at numerous schools including Exira, Carlisle, and Indianola High School, where he retired from in 2020. He was his students' biggest advocate. He enjoyed coaching girls basketball and was proud to have taken them to state.

Doug was a devoted member of Hope Lutheran Church and was a Shriner. He belonged to the Iowa Genealogical Society and the National Society Sons of the American Revolution. In his free time, he enjoyed learning the genealogy on both sides of his family and was currently writing a book, telling the stories of his family history.

## 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.*