



## The Iowa Compatriot

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

July 13, 2023

*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.*

### Veterans Hike in Cedar Falls

By David Nation

The Army Rangers' Ruck March is a 12 mile foot march carrying a 50 pound backpack that must be completed in under three hours. Ruck Clubs across America sometimes have ruck march events that may only cover three miles and the "ruck" is passed from person to person.

Ruck Iowa sponsored its first annual Veterans Hike in Cedar Falls on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. The main event was a nine mile hike through Cedar Falls from noon to 6:00 p.m., starting and ending at AMVETS Post 49, including many stops along the way to rest, socialize, and participate in activities. Although the hike was only for veterans or anyone currently serving in a military branch, volunteers were able to help at each stop.

David Nation from the Iowa Society Sons of the American Revolution participated in the hike. He turned out to be the oldest hiker at the age of 75 and was awarded a \$250 gift card from Fleet Farm at the dinner after the event.



Youngest female, youngest male, oldest male (David Nation), and oldest female participating in the Cedar Falls Veterans Hike. Photo courtesy of Candid Photography by Diane Ebert.



# Dubuque Flag Day

By Larry Hoelscher

On June 14<sup>th</sup> 2023, Flag Day, I went to the Dubuque Carnegie-Stout Public Library to hand out foam U.S. flags that Randy Lyon had gotten from the three Dollar Tree stores in Dubuque. I brought my 13-star U.S. flag with me to show off our first flag. The flag was my talking point for the day. As I met parents and their kids, I would hand the kids a foam flag and asked them to honor this country's flag on Flag Day. Since most of the kids were pre-school age, the parents were willing to have them take the foam flags. By 11:30 a.m., I had run out of flags to hand out so I walked around carrying the flag talking to all that would answer the question of what day this was. I had one lady come up to me and wanted a picture of the uniform and flag with her.



*Larry Hoelscher and the Dubuque Carnegie-Stout Public Library staff on Flag Day*



I live across from Allison-Henderson City Park in Dubuque. Coming home from the library and still in my SAR uniform, I walked over to a group of kids at the park doing their park and rec summer program. I asked if I could talk to the kids about Flag Day. The sponsors gave me the OK. I asked the group if they knew what day it was and if they knew why my flag had 13 stars. We shared info and I asked if someone would take our picture. The kids swarmed around me and one kid grabbed my leg like I was going to get away. I thanked all for their time. The best plan is just to do it when it presents itself.

## Cpl. Delbert L. White: Ottumwa War Hero Receives Military Burial

By Randy Lyon



Well over one hundred family members and childhood friends of Delbert White gathered at Calvary Cemetery in Ottumwa, Iowa, on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023. They were there to honor the memory of a young man who, at the age of 20, gave his life to save hundreds of others in the Korean War.

In late 1950, White was a member of D Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Engineer (Combat) Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division when it was suddenly attacked by forces of the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces. White and a number of others remained behind to block the Chinese while the rest of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division escaped to the south. (1) White and others were eventually captured and marched northward to Camp #5, Pyoktong, North Korea, where he died in February or March, 1951. (2)

During Operation GLORY in the fall of 1954, 550 sets of remains reported to be from Prisoner of War Camp #5 were returned to United Nations Command. White was among the 38 who could not be identified. Those unidentified remains were buried as Unknowns at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, also known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu in 1956. (3)

Researchers from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency Disinternment Project in 2019 exhumed the remains from Camp #5 and transferred them to a lab in Hawaii for analysis. Using dental, anthropological analysis, and mitochondrial DNA analysis, scientists were able to identify White's remains. (4)

Corporal White was awarded the Purple Heart, the Prisoner of War Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation, and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal. (5)



Sources:

1. "Ottumwa—Native Who Died as Korean War Prisoner Accounted For," KCRG Online, Mar. 22, 2023
2. "Delbert White," Obituaries, Ottumwa Courier online, June 12, 2023
3. "Soldier Accounted For From Korean War," Press Release, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, March 22, 2023
4. "Ottumwa..."
5. "Delbert White"

## Civil War Veteran Honored in Violet Hill Cemetery

By Mike Rowley



IA SAR members Mike Rowley and Don Richardson ordered, delivered and installed a replacement stone for Civil War veteran Jonathan Nelson who is buried in Violet Hill cemetery in Perry, Iowa. Nelson was a private in Company H of the 5<sup>th</sup> Iowa Cavalry.



By Randy Lyon

Clem Steele, a member of the Wisconsin National Guard, was a pioneer in computer education in northeastern Iowa. He had been educated at Marquette University, the University of Iowa, and the University of Wyoming.

Clem moved to Dubuque with his wife as an employee of the Area Education Agency in the 1960s. His assignment was computer education for both educators and students. Clem later served as a Professor of Education at Loras College in Dubuque before retiring in 2000.

Larry and I were the sole Color Guard at the ceremony. Clem's wife, Jane, gave us her personal appreciation for being present, as did many of those in attendance following the ceremony.

By David Nation

On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, a group of riders from AMVETS, Patriot Guard Riders, Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, American Legion, and others including David Nation representing the IASSAR, escorted the remains from Waterloo to Hamilton's Southtown Funeral Home in Des Moines where they were joined by the cremains of 11 other unclaimed veterans.

After a short service, they were all escorted to the Iowa Veterans Cemetery where the attendees became the veterans' family and paid them an appropriate tribute for their service to the United States. Mike Rowley and David Nation, both in Revolutionary War uniform, stood watch on a hill overlooking the service.





## Upper Bay Cemetery Work

By Dennis Geesaman



On Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, Randy Lyon and I met with cemetery board member Bob Sack to work on the Upper Bay Cemetery Civil War monument, as well as clean and repair headstones. In all, we cleaned and made minor repairs to 11 headstones plus the monument.



## Urbandale 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade

By Mike Rowley

The DAR once again invited us to join them in their coveted position near the front of the Urbandale 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. Members participated in Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War uniforms. The parade started at 10 a.m. from the corner of 70<sup>th</sup> Street and Oliver Smith Drive and proceeded for about two miles. It was extremely warm by the end of the walk, but we made some great memories for some of the children and their families along the way.

Our leader, Tom Clegg (about 12 seconds into the video at <https://www.kcci.com/article/mike-pence-walks-fourth-of-july-parade-urbandale/44433957>) was later seen reading the Declaration of Independence to an afternoon crowd in Lion's Park and Color Guard Commander Mike Rowley was rumored to have been enjoying refreshments in a friend's pool!



*Tom Odolski, Tom Clegg, Mike Rowley, Randy Lyon, Michael Donahue, David Rowley, David Nation, and Justin Blood at the Urbandale 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade*

# Flag Certificates Presentations

By Larry Hoelscher

I delivered five flag certificates on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023. One lady invited me into her house as I rang the door bell and knocked on her door. As I opened the door she asked who I was and what I wanted. I walked in and introduced myself by name and she said that I needed to walk to her in her living room and I saw that she was confined to her chair. She asked why I was there and I handed her my intro paper that I had made up. She read it and I asked why she has a flag in her yard. She stated that her husband was a veteran and did not want a flag, but after he passed away she had the flag pole installed. She thanked me for the certificate and said that she would be honored to have it. I asked for a picture of her and her certificate, but she refused saying that she was not picture worthy. Recently there was a murder on the same street two blocks down from where I delivered another flag certificate. It got me thinking about walking into a house just because I was asked in.

I received a different response from a man I was delivering a certificate to. He wanted to know how I knew his name and why I had stopped by. I stated that he was flying a U.S. flag in his yard and that I wanted to honor his flying of the flag. He was hesitant, but took the certificate. When I asked for a photo with his certificate, he said "sure" and all was well. Cold contacts bring different responses. In this day and age, ringing door bells is not always welcome.



*Larry Hoelscher presents Susan Lambert and Jonathan Buhman with flag certificates*

## Ceremony to Honor Veterans Buried in Clarinda, Iowa

By Mike Rowley

Like many lowans, I watch the parades, speeches, fireworks and pageantry of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations and feel a sense of pride in those that helped make America a special country. I have never served in the military, but I have respect for those who have and try to express it to them.

Recently, I was asked by Mary Crouse and Colleen Homan, two long-time and very hard-working volunteers of the Missing in America Project, to assist with something they were working on with local volunteers. As I understand it, the intention of MIAP is to locate, identify and inter the unclaimed cremains of American Veterans. I have seen the positive results of their past work and what it can mean to living veterans and their families. There are times when hundreds of people show up at the long delayed military service, and other times when these volunteers are the only ones there.

Their most recent project caught my attention. It is for 14 veterans buried, but likely never given a formal military funeral. How could that be? It was likely not the result of their service rendered, but more likely where their lives ended. They died and were buried at the cemetery of the Clarinda State Hospital that opened in 1888.





The facility has gone by many inappropriate names in the past; the Clarinda State Asylum, the Clarinda Asylum for the Insane, the Clarinda Lunatic Asylum, and the Clarinda Mental Health Institute.

It is common to question past generations' decisions based on information now available. But even today many of us need to be reminded that not all veteran's wounds are physical. Real mental health illness has for many eras often not been acknowledged or correctly identified by even the professionals of the time. For those veterans affected by mental health related issues and their families, it is present and it is real.

Reports as early as 1761 wrote about "nostalgia" among soldiers. Among those who were exposed to military trauma, some reported missing home, feeling sad, sleep problems, and anxiety. By the time of the Civil War, "soldier's heart" or "irritable heart" described a condition marked by a rapid pulse, anxiety, and trouble breathing. WWI would bring the term shell shock and WWII the terms battle fatigue and combat stress reaction. By 1980, PTSD was further defined. For those veterans of the Vietnam era, the effects of agent orange and burn pits were too long ignored.

On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, 14 veterans buried in the Clarinda State Hospital cemetery will be remembered; eight Civil War veterans, one Spanish-American War veteran, one U.S. Coastal Artillery veteran, and four WWI veterans. For nine of these veterans, it has taken over 100 years to finally receive military honors.

While we may never fully know what brought these soldiers to Clarinda, Iowa, our actions to honor them on July 22<sup>nd</sup> is a public showing to veterans, their friends, their families and all who enjoy the liberties we have in America that we are appreciative of their service and they will never be forgotten.

## How to Get a Burial Flag to Honor a Veteran or Reservist

By Mike Rowley



From time to time when we mark a grave or assist in ceremonies for veterans that may have never had a military funeral, we are asked to do a flag folding ceremony and present a flag to the family of the veteran. In case you were not aware, these flags are available at no cost. To get a burial flag, fill out the Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes (VA Form 27-2008). See <https://www.va.gov/find-forms/about-form-27-2008>. Then, take the application form to a funeral director, a VA regional office, or a United States post office. Call ahead to make sure your local post office has burial flags. If they do not, they can direct you to one that does.

## Justice Administered in Revolutionary America? Tarring and Feathering

By Randy Lyon

The practice of applying hot tar and a coating of feathers to one's opponents was largely an American practice to intimidate. Dabbing hot tar on bare skin caused painful blistering and efforts to remove it usually resulted in pulling out hairs. The use of solvents to loosen the tar was also unpleasant, especially when a substance like turpentine came in contact with burned skin. Application of the tar over the rival's clothing was considered a lesser punishment than placing it on bare skin. (1)

Just a few instances of this practice were recorded prior to the 1760s, but the passage of the Townsend Acts caused a sharp increase in its usage. It usually required the abuse of only one tax collector in an area for word to spread quickly. Other incidents occurred around the Tea Act in 1773. During the War for Independence, the tarring of Tories happened with greater regularity and ferocity, resulting in the deaths of several victims. (2)

The first person tarred and feathered in Iowa was a young man named Wheeler. This took place in Dubuque in the spring of 1834. There had been a young man wandering about the mines for some time in a deranged state of mind. A subscription of money was raised, and Wheeler was hired to take the insane person home to his father in Missouri. (3)

Upon the return of Wheeler to Dubuque, someone charged him with having abused the insane person on board the steamer and with having left him at a woodyard in Missouri in a destitute condition. Wheeler was arrested. He declared that he was innocent, and asked them to write to the father of the insane person. Judge Lynch refused his appeal, and he was tarred and feathered and drummed out of town. (4)

A few days later a letter was received from the father of the deceased person. In the letter he thanked the citizens of Dubuque for returning his son and requested them to express to Mr. Wheeler his many thanks for the care and attention he had given to the wants of his son during his journey from the mines to his home in Missouri. (5)

The person who preferred the charge against young Wheeler could not be found. A man wanting to get a fight on his hands had only to charge some person with having been engaged in this tarring and feathering action. (6)

[Taken from [https://www.encyclopediadubuque.org/index.php/TAR\\_AND\\_FEATHERING](https://www.encyclopediadubuque.org/index.php/TAR_AND_FEATHERING)]

Sources:

1. United States History, "Tarring and Feathering," Online: <http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h569.html>
2. Ibid.
3. Price, Eliphalet. "Dubuque in Early Times," "Annals of Iowa", October 1865, XII, Online: [http://iagenweb.org/dubuque/history/annals/Oct\\_1865\\_3.htm](http://iagenweb.org/dubuque/history/annals/Oct_1865_3.htm)
4. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid.

## Flag Certificate Presentations

By Randy Lyon



I haven't had very many, but some people are really concerned that their picture might turn up on Facebook. Such was the case with Ronald Kutsch, who asked that I just leave it on his door for him to pick up after I left. He thanked me for understanding and for the certificate.





Mark Fischer never seemed to be home when I visited. I left the flag certificate at the door.



David and Ashley Crimmins mentioned that they were looking for a better flagpole. I mentioned their neighbor who constructed flagpoles which had a release switch at the bottom. They were intrigued! They enjoyed the certificate too.



Jeffrey Ellis really appreciated the honor of flying the American flag. He wanted to know more about the organization and other work it was doing.



Ronald Nelson was a man I really wanted to meet given that his home in the older part of town seemed historical. Despite this and the three cars packed in the driveway, each of the three times I visited there was no one at home. Positioning the certificate above the door and asking the neighbor to bring it to his attention was the best I could do.

## 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.*