



**Iowa Compatriot**

**April 2, 2025**

**The Journal of the Iowa Society, Sons of the American Revolution April 2025**

**SAR Events in April**

**Chris Moberg**

1. April 3—MN SAR / DAR Patriot Chest Presentation—Hastings, MN
2. April 5—Noon-3:00 p.m. Meet and Greet Jax Café Minneapolis ,MN  
Gold Star Wives' Day (See the article in this newsletter)
3. April 7—6:30 pm SAR Scouting Patriot Chest presentation New Prague, MN
4. April 13-- 2:00 pm Spring State Meeting Ashland, NE
5. April 17—7:00 pm SAR /War of 1812 joint meeting Election of Officers-SAR
6. April 18--Patriot's Day—take cookies toa veterans' group)
7. April 19—Posting of sign near Iowa's first Independence Tree in Linwood Cemetery in Dubuque, IA
8. April 22—2:00 p.m. MN SAR Providence Academy Patriot Chest presentation Plymouth, MN
9. April 26 SAR Liberty Tree dedication Lexington, NE

### **Special Tributes—Dr. Doug Frazer and Bob Niffenegger**

Many genealogy societies make awards and medals available for ROTC and JROTC.

Commanders honor deserving cadets for their excellence in academics, superior leadership, military bearing, distinguished attainment in ROTC/JROTC, those who show a high degree of patriotism to his/her nation, or criteria the program deems important.

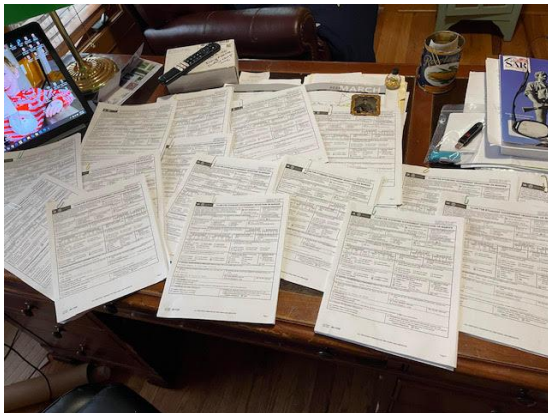
With nearly 20 such programs in Iowa the goal of 100% participation requires planning, communication, coordination of deliveries, and volunteer presenters and perhaps most importantly the pro-active contact

and communication to each program to make them aware of and understand the criteria for these awards and encourage their participation.

The Iowa SAR, GSW 1812 and SUVCW has a member who has stepped forward to take on this task for all 3 organizations. Dr. Doug Frazer, a name known to many of us, has served in nearly every office and volunteered for countless projects in each of the organizations mentioned.

Thanks, Doug, for all you have done to shine the light and introduce many who would never know of the SAR, 1812 or SUVCW to the missions and activities of our members!      Mike Rowley

### **A Man for All Seasons—Bob Niffenegger**



Not that far back in history, even the armies often took time off during the winter. Cold weather, however, does nothing to slow down SAR and Iowa 1812-member, Bob Niffenegger.

This month he showed up with 16 files pointing to veterans buried in unmarked graves in the G.A.R. section of Glendale

Cemetery in Des Moines.

A little more research and documentation has now resulted in the March 07, 2025 submission to the VA of 16 applications for granite gravestones for these 15 Civil War and 1 WWI veteran.

The dedication represents dozens of hours by our members and hopefully will result in the delivery, installation and grave marking by Memorial Day 2025.

Never underestimate a retired firefighter and inspector, especially if he is an active Iowa SAR & 1818 member.

Keep them coming, Bob!  
Mike Rowley



### **Dr. Sunleaf Serves as Keynote Speaker**

On February 22, Dr. Arthur Sunleaf served as the keynote speaker at the Lawrence Van Hook Chapter, NSDAR Good Citizens Tea at the DeWitt Public Library in Dewitt, IA..

He spoke about two simple yet at times complex concepts. The first was servant leadership and the second one was kindness. Bishop Dale Bronner, senior pastor of Word of Faith Family Worship Cathedral in Atlanta, GA says, "If service is beneath you, leadership is beyond you."

A "servant leader" is often used to describe a leadership style that prioritizes serving others and creating an environment where people find success. The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, or the most awards. They are the ones who care. They have shown kindness. This is your chance to show kindness. It is your time to shine.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION						
ADMISSION DATE OF CERTIFICATE	INSIGNIA	WIFE AND CHILDREN	FURTHER HISTORY	MODE OF TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP	REMARKS	NATIONAL NUMBER

80



## A Most Treasured Record of the Iowa Society—A Decision to Be Made

For members of the Iowa Society of the American Revolution and their families, "hidden history" needed to complete a story is found in the large IASSAR membership books.

These volumes contain transcribed member application data since the beginning of the organization on **September 5, 1893**. Every member from #1 Henry Boardman to number 2557 has been meticulously entered in the handwriting of the existing secretary. [SAR Secretary Doug Frazer with one volume]

Now after 132 years, Volume 2 is nearly full. The decision before the current IASSAR leadership is whether we continue this time-honored tradition by purchasing a similar custom bound book to enter the names for the next 50 years or does the tradition end with us?

The books are roughly 15" x 18", leather bound, with A-Z index to allow the lookup of names, 250 pages of acid free archival quality paper, and pages requiring custom designed columns to accommodate the SAR data.







The young truck driver to my home was curious why he was delivering a stone for a Spanish/American War veteran. When I told him of the volunteer projects of our members, he became very emotional. He told me he was a veteran and had no idea others were doing this.

"Outstanding" was his repeated response as he walked to the truck for his next stop.

You never know the impact small deeds have on those we don't even know. Great job, Iowa SAR/1812 compatriots. Mike Rowley

### **Gold Star Mother's Day to Gold Star Mothers' and Family Day**

Gary Everding

I am old enough to recall seeing Blue Stars in many windows of homes in my neighborhood. Does anyone else recall seeing the stars in the windows? I don't recall seeing any Gold Stars, which is very fortunate for many military families at the time. What is the Blue Star or Gold Stars being referred to?

The original display was service flags and arm bands worn by families about the time of WWI to identify those having family members serving during the war. This transformed into the Blue Star being displayed in the windows of the homes of those serving. The Gold Star signified the family had experienced the loss of a family member while serving during the war.

- In 1928, twenty-five women that had lost a child serving during the war effort created the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. which still exists.
- Gold Star Mother's Day began in 1936 designating the last Sunday in September.
- The Gold Star lapel button came into being in 1947. It was to formally recognize service members who lost their lives in combat.

- Gold Star Spouses Day is observed on April 5<sup>th</sup>
- The Gold Star next of kin lapel button was created in 1973 to symbolize active-duty service members who lost their lives in non-combat operations.
- The Gold Star Wives Day took place in 2010 and two years later (2012) the senate approved April 5<sup>th</sup> each year as the Gold Star Wives Day.
- In 2015 President Obama amended the “Gold Star Mothers’ Day to include families and designated it as “Gold Star Mothers’ and Family Day” too be celebrated on the last Sunday of September.

Let’s all acknowledge and celebrate the Gold Star Spouses Day this month.

Put it on our calendars to celebrate again the last Sunday of September!



### *Blue Star*

Signifies active- duty family member serving in the Armed Forces during periods of hostility where

US is engaged

### *Gold Star*

The Blue Star turns to gold in the event of killed in action (KIA), died from wounds sustained or military training a

## **New Citizens Receive Their First Flag**



On a hot spring morning in Des Moines, members Color Guard Commander Mike Rowley, Doug Frazer, and Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pape welcomed and offered



congratulations to 41 new United States citizens from 22 different countries.



The tradition of giving them their first flag as citizens was well received. Nearly all asked to have their photo with the Color Guard.

The picture on the upper left shows Doug with D.A.R. member Marilyn Rittel. The lower picture shows Mike Rowley with Iowa Secretary Paul Pape.

## **Thanks to A Special Sponsor in Dubuque**

On March 21, 2025 Theisen's Home, Farm, Auto of Dubuque helped members of the Society carry on its mission. Larry Hoelscher and I traveled to Cedar Rapids, Iowa to attend a naturalization ceremony at the Federal Courthouse. Together with flags Theisen's had provided, we



distributed over sixty flags to new American citizens and friends. A special thanks to Mike Rowley for giving us the idea.

The day was without a doubt one of the most enjoyable moments of our experience in the Society. From the smiles, grins, hugs and a few tears, we know the day meant a great deal to these new citizens and their friends.



## Wreaths Across America— Expression of Gratitude

Dear Group Leader,

2024 was an exceptional year for Wreaths Across America – and the reason it was so successful is because of the thousands of

dedicated volunteers like you!

..., 7,408 sponsorship groups registered to bring the program to their communities, and 1,169 new groups signed up to support the mission... In 2024 just over 3 million veterans' wreaths were sponsored and placed by more than 3 million volunteers...

With gratitude,  
Karen Worcester

### **Good News**



Quick response helped remediate the vandalism discovered in one Iowa cemetery where bronze name plaques (shown above) were pried off markers. For the story, written about in the last newsletter, please refer to the following:

<https://www.kcci.com/article/iowa-cemeteries-stolen-bronze-grave-markers-replaced-hampton/64178121>

Although help from the Society was not needed, we thank President-elect Kevin Parmenter for alerting authorities of our willingness to assist. Mike Rowley

## **Your Iowa SAR Board of Managers**

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