



Iowa Compatriot

April 30, 2026

Nation Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

Mike Rowley Honored



As members of the Iowa Society Sons of the American Revolution, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the GSW 1812 in the State of Iowa and other groups, we have many opportunities throughout the years to bring to our communities' stories of not only the past but also those works

of volunteerism of the present.

Mike Rowley and Kristine Bartley were recently awarded the CLAUDE AHRENS COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD by the Iowa Park and Recreation Association (a statewide group) for *"...outstanding, dedicated and unselfish spirit of volunteerism and as an inspiration to our communities."*

<https://ahrensfamilyfoundation.org/annual-awards-presented-in-memory-of-claude-w-ahrens/>



Compatriot Rowley accepted the award recognizing that nothing happens without the assistance of others such as the staff of the Des Moines Park and Rec Department and fellow compatriots of our organizations. Pictured are Des Moines Park and Recreation attendees at the meeting in Sioux City.

Society Response:

On behalf of the Society which is regularly in awe of your continuous contributions to those around you, we add our salute. Your participation to our Society and society at-large stands unequalled.

Thank you, Mike.

Larry Hoelscher Presents ROTC Awards

On April 23, 2026, Larry traveled to the University of Dubuque to present two ROTC awards. The SAR award went to Alex Bird. (picture on the left). Larry also presented the ROTC award for The General Society of the War of 1812 to Sean Feiten .



Larry was accompanied by two DAR representatives. Amy Sunleaf, the State Chaplain of ISDAR, is on the left. Linda Harvin is the Regent of NSDAR.

July 4th Event at the Hoover Library

I have forwarded email invitations to participate in an America 250 Iowa event at the Hoover Library. It would be an honor for our members to participate. Unfortunately, I am already committed to another event on July 4th.

Would you please reach out to our members to see if anyone can assist. If a uniform is needed, I may have a loaner.

Mike Rowley

Equipping the Continental Soldier

David Lamb, one of our Iowa SAR and 1812 members and also a veteran sent me the link to a short video. I think it is one of the best I have seen on the equipment of the Continental soldier.

<https://youtu.be/rmh6erp6OTM?si=RFWc5VCCbr0cbnyB>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAMP DODGE, Ia. -- Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) reminds all Iowans they are encouraged to recognize and mark their calendars for Iowa Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day Thursday, May 14th, at 11 a.m., at the Iowa Vietnam Memorial Wall on the south State Capitol Grounds.

The Rittel Family Keeps SAR in the News

The Rittel family kept Iowa SAR in the news in the latest **National Colorguardsman Magazine**. While leading this veteran grave marking, Ron Rittel added to the honors for the War of 1812 veteran by paying respects in a War of 1812 uniform, coat, and hat. Marilyn not only photographed the event but "re-discovering" the older stone. The picture of Ron with Mike Rowley appeared in the March issue of this newsletter. It will be found on the Iowa Sons of the American Revolution website.

The magazine goes out electronically to nearly 40,000 members and institutions. They are now accepting photos taken from April 1 to July 4th 2026

Great job.
Mike Rowley

Iowa SAR Project Continues to Make News

You did it again!!! Bob Niffenegger found yet another Civil War veteran in Woodland Cemetery in Des Moines, Iowa

The application will be submitted on April 17, 2026 and hopefully approved soon.

Thanks for getting us one closer to our goal of marking 76 veterans in 2026 as an **America 250 Iowa Project**

Great job.

Mike Rowley

A Generous Gift Put to Immediate Use

Having just received the very generous gift of an America 250 flag from Compatriot Peter Young and the Hawaii Society SAR, the Iowa Society of SAR members put it to immediate use.



One of our **America 250 Iowa** projects is to find, research, document and mark 76 unmarked veteran graves in 2026.

At the installation of the stone for Anderson W. Brothers, a Civil War veteran buried in Woodland Cemetery in Des Moines, Iowa the flag was displayed.

IA Sons of the American Revolution members Mike Rowley, Bob Niffenegger and Ron Rittel, who are also all members of **GSW 1812 and SUVCW** (co-sponsors of the project) performed

the ceremony with Marilyn Rittel of the Auxiliary Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Each of the Compatriots were in uniforms representing the American Revolution, The War of 1812 and the Civil War

The event was also video recorded by a producer/director of IPS Television for possible future broadcast.

Respectfully

Mike Rowley

Liberty Tree Planting on the Capitol Grounds



Our efforts to have a Liberty Tree planted on the grounds of the Iowa Capitol as part of the 250th celebration have finally been achieved.

First, I know this happened earlier than planned which was sometime after April 15th but the State of Iowa Public Service Supervisor and Wright Outdoor Solutions selected the date.

I received a call about 6:00 AM this morning (April 4th) that they were on schedule to plant by 8:00 AM today. I had talked with Wright Outdoor Solutions late yesterday and today was a possibility, but they wanted to wait to see what the weather was like this morning.



The first picture is the crew that planted the tree and the second is one of me beside the tree. It was too cold for my knickers, but I was on top of the hill in the wind and still cold in jeans and my Minute Man coat and tricorn hat.



This will be the plaque that accompanies the tree. In keeping with Building and Grounds requirements, no name of the donating party can be included.

S. A. R. Chancellor Leaves Iowa

S.A.R. Chancellor Lance Ehmcke and his wife will move to North Carolina in May but will continue his affiliation with IASSAR.

Lance, a fifty-year member of Iowa S.A.R., brought years of experience to our Society and he will be missed. His plans include checking into the nearest SAR society to his new home and enjoying the Carolina sunshine.

We wish him the best and to seeing him on Zoom meetings back in Iowa

Scheduled IASSAR events:

May 28: Joint Zoom meeting of Iowa SAR and Iowa GSW1812

June 9: Dave Baker – multiple Rev War programs – Vinton Depot, 6:30PM

June 14: President Parmenter will speak at the Urbandale Public Library

June 25: Joint Zoom meeting of Iowa SAR and Iowa GSW1812

July 4: Iowa Veterans Home – parade and Color Guard opportunities

July 9: Mike Rowley will make a presentation for Iowa History 101: Iowa's Connection to the Revolutionary War – a ZOOM program.

July 23: Joint Zoom meeting of Iowa SAR and Iowa GSW1812

August 27: Joint Zoom meeting of Iowa SAR and Iowa GSW1812

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