



Iowa Compatriot

October, 2026

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

Nothing Says “Patriot” Today Better Than a Well-Reasoned Voter!



Media & Public Advisory: 2026 Veterans Day Ceremonies at Iowa Veterans Cemetery & Iowa Veterans Home Highlighted by America 250 Theme



Keynote Speaker: Mike Rowley: In celebration of the America 250 milestone, this year's keynote speaker for both ceremonies will be **Mike Rowley**.

8:00 a.m. – [Iowa Veterans Cemetery \(IVC\), 34024 Veterans Memorial Dr., Adel, IA 50003](#)

10:30 a.m. – [Iowa Veterans Home \(IVH\), 1301 Summit St., Marshalltown, IA 50158](#)

Welcome Home Soldier Monument by Matt Schlarm



Located in Albia, Iowa, this monument honors all honorably discharged veterans, living and deceased, female or male, and any Reserve or National Guard members called into active duty. The monument is located on eight acres of land along Highway 34 (named after the 34th Infantry) just west of the city limits.



Twenty-one marble crosses are placed down the center of the monument in the grassy area. They lead up to the granite wall, lighted at night for everyone to enjoy. These 21 crosses represent the 21-gun salute -- the highest honor bestowed on a soldier who served their country.

SAR University Update

Last year, an article in the newsletter covered the establishment of the SAR University and its many offerings for members.

This easy to manage online series of courses has been utilized by Kevin Parameter, Doug Frazer, and Randy Lyon. To this list has been added our new First Vice President Ray Wilson. If you too have taken a course or two, please let the newsletter editor know. Participation is not only good for you, it also counts credits forward the Iowa Society on the Stark Report for the national.



Fort Des Moines Being Readied for the Massing of the Colors

Fort Des Moines, an historical treasure in Iowa, is being spruced up for the Massing of the Colors on November 7th. David Skilton, new board member of the Fort Des Moines Museum and Education Center, with his wife Chris and daughter Kathryn shares with us his first participation in the cleaning crew.



POW / MIA Day Activities

by Mike Rowley

Luther Shattuck Parker, 26th Mass Inf. was a POW for about 3 months. His unit was among the first to get over run by Jubal Early's troops when they charged out of the fog just before dawn on Oct 19, 1864 at Cedar Creek, VA.

Early's troops might have rolled up the entire Union Army had not George Custer slammed into their left flank like Thor's hammer, giving the Union forces time to form a line. Luther is at rest at the foot of the flagpole the GAR section of Glendale here in Des Moines!. Luther was the g-g-grandfather of our own, David Lamb.

Dinner Invitation !

Dear Compatriot,

You are invited as my guest to Dinner with the Fort Des Moines Museum and Education Center.

Time: **6 p.m. Friday November 6th.**

Location: Waveland Hall, Plymouth Church, 4126 Ingersoll Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50312

RSVP: If you could call me at my cell before 4th of November, I will be sure you are taken care of and if you want to bring a guest let me know that too. 641-210-2688(cell)

A short status report by the Museum President Matt Harvey will follow the meal with a chance ask questions on the support needed by the Museum. David Skilton

FORT DES MOINES MUSEUM

AND EDUCATION CENTER



You are cordially invited!

10TH ANNUAL



**Saturday,
November 7
11:00 A.M.**

HSA Community Center
(Formerly Franklin Jr High Event Center)
4801 Franklin Ave, Des Moines

Pancake Breakfast 8:00-10:30

A patriotic ceremony of support and remembrance

The Board of Fort Des Moines Museum and Education Center invites all to attend the 10th Annual Massing of the Colors. Massing of the Colors is an impressive educational event and a moving patriotic ceremony. The annual event always takes place on the first Saturday of November, to precede and encourage community celebrations of Veterans Day, a legal holiday celebrated annually in November. This ceremony typically includes a parade of colors, rendition of patriotic music, recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, singing of the National Anthem, recognition of veterans, and more. It is a "must-see" for all ages.

The ceremony will be preceded by an all you can eat pancake breakfast being served from 8:00 to 10:30 A.M.

For more information, visit the website: massingofthecolors.org



Color Guards interested in participating in the ceremony should email president@fortdesmoines.museum



Busy Day of Cemetery Gravestone Recovery by Ray Wilson

I recently worked in Spring Creek Cemetery on the IAAAP facility looking for Revolutionary War Patriot Peter Gearhart's missing headstone for one last time. I excavated three gravestones that I think were unknown headstones in the location of Peter's granddaughter and great grandson. All three were extremely degraded to the point of rubble.

I did raise and level Lillie Gearhart Crawford's headstone that was previously buried. I found this one earlier in the year. It is not shown on Find a Grave. I think she was Peter's granddaughter. I also raised and leveled James Arthur Crawford's headstone. I have reason to believe to think he was Lillie's son and Peter's great grandson.



Mike Rowley is working on getting a replacement memorial headstone from the VA. If that doesn't work out, the Des Moines County Pioneer Cemetery Commission is going to supply a memorial headstone.



I'll be helping train people to work on cleaning Pioneer Cemetery headstones with the Des Moines County Pioneer Cemetery Commission. The cemetery we'll be working in has a Revolutionary War patriot with a known headstone. There are also two sons of Revolutionary War patriots. One at least has a damaged headstone, I'll have to assess for needed or possible repairs. The other will require further investigation.

David Steele's Revolutionary "Medal"

Medals are usually thought of as portable meta; discs hung from a ribbon commemorating a deed, an event, or an achievement. David Steele's medal from the Revolutionary War was none of these things. It was not issued by the government nor for services rendered or accomplishments attained, It was from and for himself only—with assistance from a British saber.

David Steele's "medal," as he referred to it for over fifty years, was a part of himself, a piece of bone from his own skull sheared off by a blow to the head that left him maimed for life. Steele kept this memento of his wartime experience safe for more than half a century, proof of his participation and a reminder of the human price of American independence.

This curious piece of history rests at the University of Virginia's Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library. Donated by later generations of the Steele family, this bone fragment is a remnant of the American Revolution and a battle that occurred in North Carolina nearly 250 years ago.

Wounded at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse on March 15, 1781, David Steele received multiple serious wounds to his head, shoulders, and back. Somehow surviving, he returned to his home in Virginia, managed a tavern, and lived for another fifty-nine years with his wife and their children.

Plans Being Made to Help the Salvation Army

For several years, Dubuque members of the SAR and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War have joined to "Ring the Bell" for the Salvation Army. This year our part of the campaign will expand. A two-hour Saturday morning session will now include an hour-hour session each Monday morning. The collection annually has exceeded \$100.00.

George Washington Endowment Fund

Gentlemen,

As you know, the George Washington Endowment Fund has provided financial assistance to countless SAR Patriotic, Historical, and Educational Projects around the country. But, our last two years have been rather slow in acquiring new GWEF Fellows. I'm asking for your assistance in helping to reverse this trend. Here is what we need:

1. In all of your State and Local Chapter meetings, please mention the George Washington Endowment Fund and the good work that it is doing. Please provide GWEF Applications to anyone who expresses an interest. If you are not familiar with GWEF and the investments they are making around the country, please let us know and we can answer those questions for you. (There are financial awards available to the Chapter and State with the largest growth in GWEF Fellows in a single year).

Jim Griffin, GWEF Committee

Randy Breese has agreed to take on the responsibility of this activity.

Charles Shepherd Recognized as a Patriot

Mike Rowley



The DAR now recognizes Charles Shepherd as a Patriot. His memorial headstone was marked on Saturday, October 17, 2026. First DAR member under this Patriot is his 4th GG Daughter, Kathleen Dial. You may recognize Matt Dial, a recent SAR member, the pictures.



Plans Being Made to Help the Salvation Army

For several years, members of the SAR and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War have joined other community groups “Ring the Bell “for the Salvation Army in Dubuque. This year our part of the campaign will expand from a Saturday morning session to include each Monday morning from 10:00-noon. The collection each year has exceeded \$100.00.

Oct 5 Jefferson Resident Helps Bring Military Service to Light For Previously Unmarked Grave in City Cemetery



Josh Dyer with new headstone of Roswell Cory. Photo courtesy of Josh Dyer

A former Jefferson resident, who fought in the Civil War, recently had a headstone installed denoting his service.

Josh Dyer has been working for several months to help individuals who served in the military, but had unmarked graves, help get the recognition that they deserve. Through a program with the Veterans Administration and Dyer's research, he helped volunteer Mike Rowley get a free headstone for Roswell S. Cory, who was a private in the Union Army with the G Company of the 48th Indiana Infantry Regiment from October 1862 to June 1865.

Close up of Cory's headstone. Photo courtesy of Josh Dyer



Dyer says according to Cory's obituary, he and his wife became residents of Jefferson after the war and they raised their family for several years until Cory moved to Marshalltown, where he later died at the Iowa Soldier's Home in January 22, 1928.

Dyer said that while this headstone was only his fifth since he started his own efforts last year, it was Rowley's 449th. He adds that Jefferson City Clerk Roxanne Gorsuch was a tremendous help, along with utilizing the Jefferson City Cemetery online database for his initial research.

Oct 11 Member David Skilton forms and leads cleaning crew at Fort Des Moines

Oct 12 Member David Skilton takes delivery of vet stone for John Kohler Sr War of 1812 in Nashua, Iowa

Oct. 13 submitted application for VA stone for Cornell Howland in Lineville

OCT 14 Dan Rittel post on LinkedIn

Do you have an interest in genealogy, American history, and patriotism? If you have an ancestor who served in the Civil War, you might want to consider joining the **Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War** (SUVCW) or any of the Allied Orders.

Originally founded in 1881, the SUVCW is a volunteer, non-profit, charitable, fraternal, patriotic, and educational organization. The SUVCW is officially recognized as the legal successor to the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), receiving its Congressional Charter in 1954.

Here is what the organization does to honor our history:

The SUVCW encourages and assists in the preservation of documents and records pertaining to the Grand Army of the Republic and its members and making these records available for research.

The organization maintains a database of Civil War veteran graves and works to seek out and mark the graves of Civil War veterans.

The SUVCW's patriotic education includes teaching the true history of our country, especially relating to the Civil War.

Who is eligible to join?

Membership in the SUVCW is open to male descendants of soldiers, sailors, marines or revenue cutters.

Your ancestor must have been mustered into Federal service and served honorably in, been honorably discharged from, or died in the service of the Union Army or Navy during the War of the Rebellion, 1861-1865.

Member applicants must be at least 14 years of age and must not have been convicted of any heinous or notorious crime (felony).

Those who do not have a Union ancestor, but who still wish to support the Order, may join as an Associate.

Women who wish to honor their ancestors and the history of the Civil War also have excellent opportunities to join Allied Orders affiliated with the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). The Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War (DUVCW) and Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic (LGAR) offer membership based on lineal or bloodline descent from an honorably discharged Union veteran. The Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (ASUVCW) welcomes women who share the goals of the Sons, offering membership to wives, daughters, mothers, and legally adopted daughters of SUVCW members, as well as those with direct ancestry. Additionally, the Woman's Relief Corps (WRC) has historically opened its membership to loyal women regardless of ancestry. Each of these organizations plays a vital role in keeping the memory of the Boys in Blue alive alongside the SUVCW.

You can learn more about local Department of Iowa efforts, read our stories, and see recent grave and monument dedication ceremonies by visiting <https://www.iowasuvchw.org>.

Discover your roots, preserve our nation's history, and help keep green the memory of the Boys in Blue!

#SUVCW #BoysInBlue #CivilWar #Genealogy #FraternityCharityLoyalty

Oct 17 Rev War Patriot grave recognized by local DAR and attended by IA SAR Matt Dial of Urbandale

Oct 19 The Charles Obriham stone has officially been installed by members of the Winneshiek County Pioneer Cemetery Commission!

Oct 20 - Beedle stone approved for Monroe County



Oct 21

Smith's Cemetery is a very small rural cemetery in section 15 of Mantua Township in Monroe County, Iowa. After our members identified, proved and got approval it was time again to install a stone on an unmarked veteran's grave. Ronald Peterson, an ever-ready local volunteer and contact for many of our efforts in Monroe County called to say a few people had heard of the efforts to remember this soldier and wanted to be a part of it.

The 8-mile caravan from the Albia, Iowa town square to the narrow path through farm fields to the cemetery reminded me a bit of the scene from the Field of Dreams with many cars lined up and following.

At this marking we had not only our volunteer members like Ron and Marilyn Rittel, but also a local American Legion Color Guard, a bugler, family members of the veteran, members of the local Historical Society and Pioneer Cemetery association, cemetery caretakers, nearby citizens as well as journalists and photographers of the local newspaper.

Quite a gathering that should remind all of our members that our organizations and members making things like this possible efforts are very much appreciated. Mike Rowley

Oct 22 Confirmed that Lorenzo Dow Thompson (who wrestled and beat Abe Lincoln) is getting a stone from a local guy in Bethany, Mo Greg Hagan

Lorenzo Dow Thompson

BIRTH

20 Feb 1807

DEATH

Feb 1875 (aged 67–68)

Harrison County, Missouri, USA

BURIAL

Oakland Cemetery

Bethany, Harrison County, Missouri, USA

MEMORIAL ID

167506981 · [View Source](#)

Oct 22 G M Dodge Camp, SAR , GSW 1812 members in The Banner

Oct 23 A wonderful patriotic ceremony to dedicate the new monument on the courthouse grounds at Jefferson on Friday. There was also a duplicate monument dedicated later at the Old Rippey Cemetery. The Cemetery is on the site of the school.



Oct 24 America 250 Iowa Fall Harvest Festival
Task Force recognition and participation

Mike Rowley, of Clive, poses for a portrait in his Revolutionary War-era uniform as the Iowa Capitol Building looms in the background during America's Harvest Festival on Saturday, Oct. 24, 2026, in Des Moines.



Mike Rowley, of Clive, speaks to a family about Iowa's participation in the Revolutionary War during America's Harvest Festival on Saturday, Oct. 24, 2026, in Des Moines.



David Burkett War during America's Harvest Festival on the Des Moines Register website

Oct 25

Mike



I am attaching a photograph of the three War of 1812 military stones you gratefully were able to order and get for Aspen Grove Cemetery. This means a great deal to me to be able to honor these soldiers. We have set up a new veteran area in our Potter's Field section, and the monuments have been set.

Thanks again for all your dedication and hard work

Michael D Bloomer, Administrator
Aspen Grove Cemetery

NSSAR Surgeon General Health Minute

by Matthew S Bowdish MD, NSSAR Surgeon General 2026-2027

Obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) is a common condition where muscles in the throat relax too much during sleep. This causes the soft tissues in the throat to collapse, leading to airway obstruction that interrupts breathing during sleep. Symptoms of OSA include loud snoring, breathing pauses noticed by partners, morning headaches, dry mouth, decreased concentration and excessive tiredness throughout the day.

Risk factors for sleep apnea are obesity, male sex, older age, alcohol use, smoking, and certain anatomical features like small jaw, large tonsils, and enlarged tongue. If left untreated, OSA can lead to increased blood pressure, heart disease, cardiac arrhythmias, cognitive problems including dementia, stroke, type 2 diabetes, and accidents from drowsiness.

Diagnosis is made by performing a sleep study, either at home or in a specialized sleep lab. During the study, a sleep technologist attaches multiple sensors with tape that will measure brain waves, eye movements, muscle activities, breathing effort, heart rates, and blood oxygen levels during sleep. This test can also diagnose other sleep disorders as well.

Treatment of obstructive sleep apnea include machines that keep the airway open with pressurized air, oral appliances, positional therapy, weight loss, and even surgery. Proper treatment improves sleep quality and reduces the long-term diseases associated with OSA. Ask your partner if you have any of the features of sleep apnea. Diagnosis and treatment could add years to your life.

S.A.R. Medals and Awards Handbook

Mike Rowley



As the Iowa SAR awards presentation is tonight, I thought it might be appropriate to help our members better understand all the medals, awards and recognitions there are available to those in our organization.

Many of the awards are presented by our own State Society. Others require District or National approval.

As our Iowa members are spread all over the country I suspect we are only hearing of a small fraction of those that are deserving of some of these.

I would encourage all interested members to let us know of medals/awards for which they are qualified. Copies of the handbook may be obtained from Randy Lyon, randylyon1915@gmail.com

Honored Compatriots:

Doug Frazer

Chris Moberg
Kevin Parmenter-Patriot Medal
Mike Rowley—Caleb Gibbs State Color Guard Commander
Larry Hoelscher-Henry Knox Silver Medal
Randy Breeze-Henry Knox Silver Medal
David Nation-Henry Know Silver Medal
Bob Harris-Certificate



10-27-2026 SAR Awards Ceremony Urbandale Library

Front row L-R Ron Rittel, Larry Johnson and Kevin Parmenter

Back Row- Daniel Rittel, Dean Fisher, Mike Rowley, David Skilton, Jerry Rath, Doug Frazer, Randy Breese and Ray Wilson

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