



NEWS RELEASE

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Pettengill, Jochum, Named Hoover Award Winners

WEST BRANCH, IOWA – March 20, 2018 – State Representative Dawn Pettengill and State Senator Pam Jochum were recognized on March 20 at the Iowa State Capitol in Des Moines by the Hoover Presidential Foundation for ‘Uncommon Public Service’ to the people of Iowa. The Foundation established the award to be presented annually to one member of the Iowa House and the Iowa Senate who exemplifies Herbert Hoover’s humanitarian efforts and commitment with uncommon service. The nominees are judged solely on their public service and humanitarian projects.

Representative Bobby Kaufmann presented the award to Rep. Pettengill before members of the House as the session opened. “Being ‘uncommon’ is a quality of life and of service that we see often in our great state,” said Rep. Kaufmann. “We find uncommon people in our schools, churches, courts and hospitals... we even find them in our state government.”

Rep. Kaufmann quoted from some of Rep. Pettengill’s nominations, “Dawn Pettengill has remained devoutly committed to the bedrock principles of the Hoover legacy: excellence in community leadership, meaningful policy action and integrity,” one person wrote. Another said, “... we want to honor her for her exemplary contributions to the common good through public service. She has a servant heart and is an inspiration to many.”

One of many examples mentions an under-funded meal program for senior citizens. Rep. Pettengill invested hundreds of hours of personal time in putting together several telethons which helped raise several million dollars for Iowa’s seniors through Meals on Wheels.

Of the four nominations placed on behalf of Pettengill, this one perhaps says it best. “She is selfless with her time and fearless in her pursuit of justice and honesty for Iowans. I can think of no one more qualified for this award.”

“It’s truly been a privilege in my life to be here in service with so many wonderful people that care about others. I’m very honored to accept this award,” Rep. Pettengill said during a brief address to the House.



Rep. Pettengill serves House District 75 in Mt. Auburn. She is the chair of the Administrative Rules Review committee and serves on the Commerce, Government Oversight, State Government, and Ways and Means committees.

State Senator (and Hoover Presidential Foundation board member) David Johnson provided historical facts about Herbert Hoover as he began the presentation in the Senate. “President Hoover was an uncommon and extraordinary public servant,” Sen. Johnson said. “His diligent, humanitarian efforts saved the lives of millions of people worldwide suffering the devastations of war, flood and famine.” Sen. Johnson then introduced Sen. Dvorsky, a past Uncommon Public Service award winner and representative of the area including the Hoover Presidential Library-Museum.

“This is really an honor for me today,” Sen. Dvorsky said of his pending announcement of the Senate recipient. “This person certainly fulfills everything we’re talking about in being an uncommon leader in the state,” he said of Sen. Jochum.

Elected to the Iowa House in 1992 and then the Iowa Senate in 2008, Sen. Jochum is respected for her ability to build coalitions that get things done for Dubuque and Iowa. She was nominated by two former Uncommon Public Service Award recipients, Senators Rob Hogg and Amanda Ragan.

They wrote, “We nominate Sen. Jochum... because of her inspirational legislative career, her passion for people and her community, and her commitment to dignity for all people.” The nomination also quoted Teri Goodmann, assistant city manager for the city of Dubuque who said, “Pam is tenacious. She doesn’t give up on people or her passion for the community.”

Herbert Hoover had a special place in his heart for children, and often remarked about the importance of raising healthy, well-educated youth. “The advancement of knowledge must be translated into increasing health and education for the children,” Sen. Dvorsky said, quoting Hoover. In true Hoover fashion, Sen. Jochum was recently recognized by the Girl Scouts for her work mentoring young women and has been called ‘a tremendous role model for young women.’

“I thank all of you for this wonderful recognition. Many of you in this building have inspired me through my many years as a legislator,” Sen. Jochum said. “My inspiration also comes from the people in my home





community, and most importantly, from my own daughter.” Jochum said her daughter Sarah’s disability helped the senator find ‘a very public voice’ to speak for those who are unable to speak for themselves.

Among her many accomplishments, Senator Jochum has played a leading role in expanding affordable health insurance coverage to thousands of working lowans and has stood up for citizens with disabilities to protect their health services. Her support for and commitment to education has been unwavering. She has worked to expand early childhood education and ensure affordable higher education, whether at a state university, a private college or a community college.

Sen. Jochum is from District 50 in Dubuque. She is the ranking member on the Ways and Means Committee and on the Administrative Rules Review Committee. She also serves on the Ethics, Human Resources, State Government and Rules & Administration committees.

Both legislators will be honored at the Foundation’s annual Celebration Banquet in the fall.

About the Foundation

The Hoover Presidential Foundation promotes and supports the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum, National Historic Site, and other programs that enhance the understanding of Herbert Hoover as president and humanitarian.

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(Back row, L to R) Hoover Presidential Foundation trustees Robert Downer, Bill Bywater, Bruce Barnhart, board president Dave Dierks and Foundation executive director, Jerry Fleagle, congratulate Rep. Dawn Pettengill (center) as the 2018 Hoover Uncommon Public Service Award recipient in the Iowa House.



(Back row, L to R) Hoover Presidential Foundation executive director, Jerry Fleagle, board president Dave Dierks, and board trustees Bill Bywater, Robert Downer and Bruce Barnhart congratulate Sen. Pam Jochum (center) as the 2018 Hoover Uncommon Public Service Award recipient in the Iowa Senate.

