



NEWS RELEASE

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Polk County Legislators Named 2020 Uncommon Public Service Recipients

WEST BRANCH, IOWA – June 6, 2020 – State Representative Ruth Ann Gaines and State Senator Brad Zaun were recognized as the 2020 recipients of the ‘Uncommon Public Service Award’ 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 awards are typically presented in person in each chamber at the capitol in late March. “Due to the Corona virus and quarantines, we are unable to do that this year,” said Foundation President and CEO Jerry Fleagle. “Being ‘uncommon’ is a quality of life and of service that we see often in our great state,” Fleagle added. “We find uncommon people in our schools, churches, courts and hospitals... we even find them in our state government.”

Representative Gaines was a public school teacher for 40 years before taking office here in the Iowa House. She has always been active in her community, having been appointed to various boards by governors Vilsak and Culver. She is a champion of Human Rights and is credited for reinstating the Friends of Des Moines Human Rights Committee. Rep. Gaines also initiated the Sisters for Success program for African American girls in the Des Moines school district. She has been recognized as teacher of the year numerous times by many organizations, she was the first recipient of the Heritage Legacy Award, and most recently named as a Black History Month Honoree by Banker’s Trust, and a Wallace Winkie Lifelong Learner Hall of Fame honoree.

Fleagle said, “The list of her public achievements is very long and for those of you who know Representative Gaines well, you’ll agree that her heart is focused on Iowans and making her community and her state a better place to live for all.”

Rep. Gaines is the Iowa State Representative from the 32nd District. She has served in the Iowa House of Representatives since 2011. Gaines was born, raised, and resides in Des Moines, Iowa.

Senator Zaun serves District 20 and generously gives back to his community by serving on various boards and commissions. He has been involved with The Greater Dallas County Development Alliance, the Greater Des Moines Animal Rescue League, and the Iowa Commercial Real Estate Association and as a member of the Urbandale Breakfast Lions Club.





One of his nominations included the following endorsement: “Brad’s honesty and integrity are what makes him an effective legislator and valued friend. Brad understands the importance of keeping his word. He does not have to work to be a person of high integrity, it comes naturally which is why he is so well respected by his colleagues on both sides of the aisle.”

First elected to the Iowa Senate in 2005, Sen. Zaun is from Urbandale and is the director of sales at Master Dowel. He is married to his wife, Dede, and they have five children.

Both legislators will be honored at a future Foundation event.

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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<<Photos, provided by www.legis.iowa.gov >>

House: State Representative Ruth Ann Gaines

Senate: State Senator Brad Zaun
