



NEWS RELEASE

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Iowa Legislators Dolecheck, Petersen, Named Hoover Award Winners

WEST BRANCH, IOWA – March 30, 2022 – State Representative Cecil Dolecheck and State Senator Janet Petersen were recognized today 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 on their public service and humanitarian efforts.

Representative Bobby Kaufmann announced the award before members of the House as the session opened. “I’m told that today’s recipient received a number of nominations from both side of the aisle and the public at large,” Rep. Kaufmann said. “There was a common theme among them as they used words like, ‘statesman’, ‘consensus builder,’ ‘diligent and unflappable,’ ‘respectful, and gentleman.’”

In accepting the award, Rep. Dolecheck said of his colleagues, “It’s an honor to have been nominated by members of this chamber and I appreciate the respect of all of you and thank you very much for this honor.”

Representative Dolecheck is from Mount Ayr, Iowa and serves District 24. He is the chair of the Administration and Rules committee and serves on the Education, Environmental Protection, Human Resources and Labor Committees.

State Senator (and 2019 Hoover Uncommon Public Service Award recipient) Ken Rozenboom provided historical facts about Herbert Hoover as he began the presentation in the Senate. “President Hoover said in a 1948 speech entitled ‘Uncommon Men,’ “Let us remember that the great human advances have not been brought about by mediocre men and women. They were brought about by distinctly uncommon men and women with vital sparks of leadership.”

Sen. Rozenboom then introduced Sen. Pam Jochum, also a past Uncommon Public Service award winner.

“It will be my honor- with Mr. Hoover here in spirit today, to announce Senator Janet Petersen as the 2022 recipient of this award,” Sen. Jochum said. “Her efforts in women’s and children’s health embody the Hoover spirit of humanitarianism.”

“I am so honored for the award today and thank you to those who nominated me,” Sen. Petersen said.

(cont.)



Elected to the Iowa Senate in 2013, Sen. Petersen began as a state representative in 2001. She is from District 18 in Polk County and serves on the Appropriations, Commerce, Government Oversight, Judiciary and Ways and Means Committees.

Outside of the legislature, Sen. Petersen is the co-founder of the non-profit organization, Healthy Birth Day, and worked on developing its app, Count the Kicks, to educate and empower women across the country and world to manage their babies' health. Her group is introducing a federal bill with bi-partisan support that would '...make our country a much safer place to have a baby.'

Both legislators will be honored at the Foundation's annual Celebration Banquet in Cedar Rapids on Oct. 7.

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:

Rep Dolecheck.jpg: Iowa State Representative Cecil Dolecheck (3rd from L) is congratulated by Hoover Presidential Foundation trustees (L to R) Bruce Barnhart, Ken Fawcett, Jeremiah Terhark, Jennifer Crall, and Foundation president and CEO Jerry Fleagle.

Sen Petersen.jpg: (L to R) Hoover Presidential Foundation president and CEO Jerry Fleagle, along with trustees Jeremiah Terhark, Ken Fawcett, Bruce Barnhart, and Jennifer Crall, congratulate Iowa State Senator Janet Petersen (Center) as the 2022 Hoover Uncommon Public Service Award recipient in the Iowa Senate.
