



NEWS RELEASE

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Judge and Whitver Named 2025 Hoover Uncommon Public Service Award Recipients

WEST BRANCH, IOWA – March 26, 2025 – State Representative Kenan Judge and State Senator Jack Whitver were recognized as the 2025 recipients of the Herbert Hoover Uncommon Public Service Award by the Hoover Presidential Foundation. The Foundation created the annual award to be presented to one member of the Iowa House and Iowa Senate who demonstrates uncommon service to the people of Iowa above and beyond their legislative duties.

Representative Bobby Kaufmann announced the award recipient to members of the House at the opening of the day’s session. Representative Kenan Judge is a committed advocate for education, healthcare, and job growth initiatives. He has worked to ensure that Iowa’s children have access to quality education and the resources they need to succeed. His efforts to strengthen healthcare and expand wellness programs—particularly for individuals with disabilities and mental illness—demonstrate his compassionate and inclusive approach to public service.

In his acceptance remarks, Representative Judge said, “Thank you very much, it’s an honor to be standing here before all of you and to the many friendships I have had and appreciate Representative Kaufmann’s friendship and this nice award, I couldn’t be more humble to tell you the truth, so thank you.”

In the Iowa State Senate, Senator Amy Sinclair announced the award recipient to members of the Senate. Senator Jack Whitver, one nominee wrote, is a dedicated small business owner, community volunteer, and family man. He has coached his children’s sports teams, balanced legislative responsibilities with business ventures, and remained an active supporter of Iowa State Athletics. His integrity and honesty set him apart, as he consistently follows through on commitments and values transparency in leadership.

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In his acceptance remarks, Senator Whitver said, "It's a great honor to receive this award. I have been in these chambers for years and watched so many people I admire, on both sides of the isles, win this award. I saw those people receive the recognition they deserve for their work. I am honored and humbled to be recognized today and to be a part of this award. Thank you."

President Hoover said in his 1948 to students at Wilmington College in an address that would be known as his "Uncommon Man" speech, "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." This has served as the basis for recognition awarded by the Hoover Presidential Foundation.

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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