



# Uncommon Public Service Award **Winners**

| 2026 | 2025 | 2024 | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 |  
| 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |

## 2026 Recipients

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State Representative  
Jennifer Konfrst



State Senator  
David Rowley

The Hoover Presidential Foundation is proud to recognize **State Representative Jennifer Konfrst** and **State Senator David Rowley** as the 2026 recipients of the Herbert Hoover Uncommon Public Service Award. This annual award honors one member of the Iowa House and one member of the Iowa Senate who demonstrate uncommon service to the people of Iowa beyond their legislative responsibilities.

Representative Jennifer Konfrst is recognized for her leadership, dedication to civic education, and commitment to strengthening communities across Iowa. As the first woman to serve as Iowa House Democratic Minority Leader, she has set a powerful example for women and young people aspiring to leadership roles in public service.

Her impact extends well beyond the State Capitol. Representative Konfrst has been deeply involved in her community through leadership roles in local school organizations, mentoring students in mock trial and debate programs, and serving as a professor at Drake University. Through these efforts, she has helped shape the next generation of informed and engaged citizens.

Her work reflects a belief that public service is not limited to legislative action, but is rooted in education, mentorship, and fostering meaningful civic dialogue. “Public service is about creating opportunities for others to learn, grow, and lead,” Konfrst said. “I’m honored to be recognized by an organization that values civic responsibility and leadership.”

Senator David Rowley is recognized for his commitment to strengthening Iowa’s rural communities and serving the needs of his constituents with dedication and integrity. His legislative efforts have focused on supporting economic growth in rural areas and addressing the challenges facing communities across the state.

Following severe weather in 2024, Senator Rowley took the initiative to provide disaster relief support to his district, demonstrating responsiveness and leadership during times of need. His work reflects a continued commitment to improving the lives of Iowans while working collaboratively across the aisle to advance shared priorities.



Beyond his legislative role, Senator Rowley is known for his strong community engagement and personal dedication to those he serves, bringing both energy and authenticity to public service. “It’s a privilege to serve the people of Iowa,” Rowley said. “This recognition reflects the importance of working together to support our communities and ensure a strong future for our state.”

Inspired by Herbert Hoover’s belief in the power of individual leadership and responsibility, the Uncommon Public Service Award recognizes those who go above and beyond in service to others. The 2026 recipients reflect this commitment through their leadership, community involvement, and dedication to th



## 2025 Recipients

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State Representative  
Kenan Judge



State Senator Jack  
Whitver

**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.

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."

## 2024 Recipients

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State Representative  
Ako Abdul-Samad



State Senator Dan  
Dawson

**State Representative Ako Abdul-Samad** and **State Senator Dan Dawson** were recognized as the 2024 recipients of the ‘Hoover Uncommon Public Service Award’ by the Hoover Presidential Foundation for ‘Uncommon Public Service’ to the people of Iowa.

Representative Bobby Kauffmann, the 2022 recipient of the Hoover Uncommon Service Award, announced the award before members of the House as the session opened. “The depth of his work for those in his community is extensive, and his tireless efforts over the decades have touched an untold number of Iowans. Whether in the House among his colleagues or in the neighborhoods among the people he represents, Ako Abdul-Samad has consistently demonstrated the type of humanitarianism reflective of the spirit of work modeled by Herbert Hoover.”

In accepting the award, Representative Abdul-Samad said, “I accept this on behalf of all of you, my mother, my sister, and my son. We all deserve this because of the work that we do.”

In the Iowa State Senate, Senator Amy Sinclair, the 2022 recipient of the Hoover Uncommon Service Award, said of Senator Dan Dawson, “This year’s Hoover Uncommon Public Service Award recipient is one who has served both the people of Iowa and our country here and abroad. He is a current member of the National Guard, with whom he has been deployed four times to conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kosovo and currently holds the rank of Chief Warrant Officer #4. He is also an agent with the Iowa Department of Criminal Investigation, 2 where he investigates major crimes. Such service comes with great personal risk, one he faces as part of his everyday life, an uncommon act of selflessness above and beyond the duties of his legislative calling.”

Senator Sinclair went further to note that Senator Dawson was not nominated by a fellow senator but by his Senate Secretary, Haley Ledford, who worked for him. Haley said of Senator Dawson, “When he isn’t discussing tax reform, protecting Iowa’s exploited children, or helping grow Iowa’s gaming industry, he also has a strong passion for companion animals and ensuring Iowa’s laws best protect and uplift pets and owners alike. Dan is a multi-faceted individual with many areas of interest and compassion. His generosity of spirit transcends political boundaries, showing a genuine concern for the well-being and success of all those (humans and creatures!) he encounters.”

## 2023 Recipients

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State Representative  
Bobby Kaufmann



State Senator Amy  
Sinclair

**State Representative Bobby Kaufmann** and **State Senator Amy Sinclair** were recognized as the 2023 recipients of the ‘Hoover Uncommon Public Service Award’ by the Hoover Presidential Foundation for ‘Uncommon Public Service’ to the people of Iowa.

Representative David Jacoby announced the award before members of the House as the session opened. “Representative Kaufmann has continually shown his commitment to the principles of the Hoover legacy by working tirelessly for the betterment of his community,” Rep. Jacoby said. “His dedication to public service, integrity and community leadership has made him an inspiration to the people of Iowa.”

In accepting the award, Rep. Kaufmann said, “This award has meant a lot to me my entire career,” Rep. Kaufmann said. “It is a high honor and a privilege, and I thank you.” Rep.

Kaufmann is from Cedar County and serves District 82.

In the Iowa State Senate, Senator Pam Jochum, the 2018 recipient of the Hoover Uncommon Service Award, provided background details about the award as she began the presentation in the Senate. “The recipients have been a consistent blend of Democrats and Republicans, males and females and were not selected on either their party or gender basis,” Sen. Jochum said. “The goal of this award is to seek nominations for legislators who exemplify Herbert Hoover’s ideals of honesty, integrity, and uncommon public service. ‘Uncommon’ is the key word here.”

“This year’s Hoover Uncommon Public Service Award recipient possesses a rare combination of style and substance that is unmatched. They have been described as smart, decisive, eloquent, and passionate in their public service,” Sen. Rozenboom said. “It is my honor to announce the 2023 Hoover Uncommon Public Service Award recipient: Senator Amy Sinclair.

“Thank you, I approach everything with the goal of doing my best. I certainly appreciate the honor,” Sen. Sinclair said in a brief statement.

## 2022 Recipients

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State Representative  
Cecil Dolecheck



State Senator Janet  
Petersen

**State Representative Cecil Dolecheck** and **State Senator Janet Petersen** were recognized the Hoover Presidential Foundation for ‘Uncommon Public Service’ to the people of Iowa.

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.

Sen. Pam Jochum, also a past Uncommon Public Service award winner, announced the recipient for the senate.

“With Mr. Hoover here in spirit today, I’m pleased 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. 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.’

## 2021 Recipients

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With the Hoover Tax Credit Bill under consideration this session, we opted to not present an award this year.

## 2020 Recipients

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State Representative  
Ruth Ann Gaines



State Senator Brad  
Zaun

**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

## 2019 Recipients

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State Representative  
John Forbes



State Senator Ken  
Rozenboom

**State Representative John Forbes** and **State Senator Ken Rozenboom** were recognized on March 26 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 announced the award 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. Forbes nominations, “Even though he is so giving of his time and resources, John does not do it for personal recognition or glory. John is involved for all the right reasons... he simply wants to help others.”

In accepting the award, Rep. Forbes said of his colleagues, “I thank you for your confidence in me – it’s an honor every day to walk in here and be with such a great group of people. I thank you all.”

Representative Forbes received several nominations. They consistently describe him as a role model in his profession and in his community. He serves District 40 in Urbandale. He has served as the president of the Iowa Pharmacy Association, and claimed many accolades for doing such. Forbes was named one of the Top 100 Most Influential Pharmacists by a leading pharmacy magazine. He is a member and past president of the Urbandale Chamber of Commerce, as well as a former city councilman there.

His true passion is supporting veterans, and he has been instrumental in organizing countless Honor Flights to Washington, D.C.

In the Iowa House, Forbes serves on the Administration and Rules Committee, Commerce, Human Resources, Transportation and Ways and Means committees.

State Senator (and Hoover Presidential Foundation member) Tim Kapucian provided historical facts about Herbert Hoover as he began the presentation in the Senate. “President Hoover was an uncommon and extraordinary public servant,” Sen. Kapucian, a 2016 recipient of the award said. “His diligent, humanitarian efforts saved the lives of millions of people worldwide suffering the devastations of war, flood and famine.”

Sen. Kapucian 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 Ken Rozenboom as the 2019 recipient of this award,” Sen. Jochum said. “It’s clear that he is respected by his colleagues and constituents alike,” she said of Sen. Rozenboom.

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“I do thank you,” Sen. Rozenboom said. “It is an extreme honor to serve the constituents of Senate District 40, and my distinct honor to serve with every one of you in this room. I don’t care what your party is, what your committee is – it’s an honor for me and I thank you for the opportunity to work with you.”

Elected to the Iowa Senate in 2013, Sen. Rozenboom is from District 40 in Mahaska County where he previously served as the Mahaska County Supervisor. His nomination was submitted with a dozen names on it from both parties, and included comments that it was ‘clear that he is respected by his colleagues and constituents alike.’

They also wrote, “When speaking to Senator Rozenboom, one can expect a fair hearing, honest and thoughtful discussion, and a dedication to finding the right solution.”

Rozenboom is the Chairman of the Natural Resources and Environment committee, and is a member of the Agriculture, Appropriations and Education committees. He is well known for his work on clean water standards and for crafting historic water quality legislation on a bipartisan level – all without raising taxes or placing regulatory hurdles on Iowans.

## 2018 Recipients

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State Representative  
Dawn Pettengill



State Senator Pam  
Jochum

**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 Iowans 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.

Resources, State Government and Rules & Administration committees.

## 2017 Recipients

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State Representative  
Zach Nunn



State Senator Rob  
Hogg

**State Representative Zach Nunn** and **State Senator Rob Hogg** were recognized on March 30, 2017, 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. Nunn 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 Rep. Nunn’s nomination form, “Rep. Nunn imbues the excellence in service. . . and leadership that President Herbert Hoover challenged every American to strive to achieve. Representing Iowa House District 30, Rep. Nunn is a shining example of self-sacrifice, work ethic, and humility each day he sets foot in the House chamber. He works closely with community organizations... he reads books to preschoolers at local schools. He speaks and volunteers with local organizations that work to give provisions to the area’s hungry and homeless. He is an authentic, unwavering servant to the public.”

“To be able to serve one’s country is a great honor, but to be able to serve one’s closest community is the highest privilege we can ask for,” said Rep. Nunn. “I am very humbled by this award.”

Senate President, Jack Whitver, presented the award to Senator Hogg in the State Senate chamber. “It’s greatly satisfying to me that the Hoover Presidential Foundation, for the 11th consecutive year, has recognized legislators from the Iowa House and the Senate who have demonstrated uncommon and extraordinary public service to the people of Iowa,” said Whitver.

Active in the Cedar Rapids community and throughout Iowa, Rob has worked diligently to engage citizens in advocacy for climate solutions -- as staff for Ecumenical Ministries of Iowa, as member of the Board for Iowa Power & Light, as coordinator of Iowa Climate Advocates, as a leader of the Cedar Wapsie Sierra Club, I-RENEW and Citizens Climate Lobby, as one of the most active speakers in the Climate Reality Leadership Corps, and as the author of a succinct and accessible book, *America’s Climate Century: What Climate Change Means for America in the 21st Century and What Americans Can Do About It*.

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“I am honored,” said Senator Hogg. “I just want to thank everybody for this unexpected and surprising award.”

Representative Nunn serves House District 30 and serves on the Admin and Rules, International Relations, Economic Growth, Judiciary, Legislative Council and Ways & Means committees.

Sen. Hogg is from the 19th District and is the Senate Democratic Leader and ranking member on the Rules and Administration Committee.

## 2016 Recipients

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State Senator Tim  
Kapucian



Iowa House Speaker  
Linda Upmeyer

**State Senator Tim Kapucian** and **Iowa House Speaker Linda Upmeyer** were recognized March 30, 2016, 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 Senate and the Iowa House who exemplifies Herbert Hoover’s humanitarian efforts and commitment with uncommon service.

Nominees are judged on their public service and humanitarian projects.

The first presentation was made on the floor in the Iowa House chamber. State Representative Bobby Kaufmann presented the award 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 Speaker Upmeyer’s nomination form, “Linda Upmeyer has exemplified the values of leadership and integrity in all walks of her personal and professional life. She is passionate about and dedicated to the state of Iowa. Linda demonstrates Herbert Hoover’s value of work ethic when you find her in her office at the Capitol prior to 6:30 a.m. each day. It is very important to her to make sure her constituents are heard and represented. She meets with all of her constituents at their request and holds political forums on days when the legislature is not in session.”

“I have to tell you, every year we name the Hoover award recipient, I’ve always been really excited for that person because I really do believe it’s a genuine honor to receive the award, thank you so much,” Speaker Upmeyer said, addressing the chamber.

Speaker Upmeyer serves House District 54 and is the first woman in Iowa history to preside over the House chamber. Her father, Del Stromer, served as Speaker during the 69th General Assembly. Linda and her father are the first father and daughter pair in the nation to have both served as Speakers of the House.

Upmeyer is serving her seventh term in the Iowa House, representing the North Iowa counties of Franklin, Cerro Gordo, and the northern and eastern parts of Butler. She resides in Clear Lake.

State Senator David Johnson, who is also a member of the Hoover Presidential Foundation’s board of trustees, began the presentation in the Senate chamber. In his opening remarks, Sen. Johnson described President Hoover as an uncommon and extraordinary public servant. “. . . in his lifetime, Hoover saved the lives of well over a billion people in 57 countries. That certainly made him an ‘uncommon’ person,” said Johnson.

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Senate President Pam Jochum followed with the presentation of the award. “Senator Kapucian is valued by his legislative peers,” said Jochum. “He currently serves as ranking member of the Senate Transportation Committee, where he promotes improved public safety and advocates for better roads, bridges and infrastructure important to Iowa’s economy and reaching national and international markets. He knows that those exports help feed the world and raise the standard of living in developing countries.”

“I am so humbled... I’m overwhelmed,” Sen. Kapucian told the chamber. “Thank you very much!”

Sen. Kapucian is from Benton County and serves the 38th District. He has served in the Iowa Senate since 2009. He is the ranking member on the Iowa Legislature’s Transportation committee and the Transportation, Infrastructure and Capitals Appropriations Subcommittee. Other committees include the Agriculture, Appropriations,

International Relations, Studies, and Public Retirement Systems committees. He resides in Keystone with his wife, Brenda; two stepdaughters and three step-grandchildren.



## 2015 Recipients

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State Representative  
Helen Miller



State Senator Wally  
Horn

**State Representative Helen Miller** and **State Senator Wally Horn** were recognized today 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. Miller 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 Rep. Miller’s nomination form, “Like President Hoover, Representative Miller understands the importance of leadership and a commitment to provide a greater understanding of art and culture to Iowans. She understands the value of generosity, honor, passion, compassion and integrity.”

“To say that I am stunned is truly an understatement,” said Rep. Miller. “I just want to simply say, this is something I didn’t expect. Thank you.”

Senate President Pam Jochum presented the award to Senator Horn in the State Senate. “Senator Horn has served in the Iowa Legislature for 43 years. No other legislator in Iowa history has a longer continuous record,” said Jochum. “Older Iowans have Wally Horn as one of their champions. The Cedar Rapids senator has worked on legislation to prevent elder abuse and financial exploitation of older Iowans, among other programs.”

“An award like this is really humbling,” said Senator Horn. “It’s a great one to receive, an honorable award... I want to thank you very much and I’m very honored.”

Representative Miller serves the 9th District and is the ranking member of the Agriculture Committee and also serves on the Economic Growth and Natural Resources Committees. She is also a member of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee.

Sen. Horn is from the 35th District and has served in the Iowa Senate since 1983. He previously served 10 years in the Iowa House. He currently chairs the Ethics and Veterans Affairs Committees and serves on the Judiciary, State Government and Transportation committees. Sen. Horn is Vice Chair of the Administrative Rules Review Committee and a member of the Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

## 2014 Recipients

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Representative Steven  
Olson



Senator Nancy  
Boettger

**Representative Steven Olson** and **Senator Nancy Boettger** were recognized April 2 by the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association for ‘Uncommon Public Service’ to the people of Iowa. The Association 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. Names, locations and political affiliation of the nominated legislators are not seen by the judges.

Representative Bobby Kaufmann presented the award to Olson 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.”

### [VIEW REP. OLSON’S AWARD PRESENTATION](#)

Rep. Kaufmann quoted from Olson’s nomination form, “During his career, Representative Olson has consistently worked for the best interests of those he represents. Whether it dealt with the business world, agriculture or the education of our youth, he diligently sought out the best solution. He understood what those issues are because he is us.”

Senate President Pam Jochum presented the award to Boettger in the Senate. “As a former educator, Senator Boettger has devoted her time and efforts to help Iowa students value a good education. She has exemplified Herbert Hoover’s value of integrity to work together with Republicans and Democrats to do what is best for Iowa’s young people and the educational options available to them,” she said.

### [VIEW SEN. BOETTGER’S AWARD PRESENTATION](#)

Rep. Olson serves the 97th District and is currently Speaker Pro Tempore and is serving on the Administration and Rules Committee, Agriculture Committee, Legislative Council, Public Safety Committee and the Transportation Committee. Senator Boettger is from the 9th District in western Iowa and has served in the Iowa Senate since 1995. She currently serves on the Education, Ethics, Human Resources and Judiciary committees and is the ranking member of the Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee.

Boettger and Olson will receive their awards at the Hoover Presidential Library Association annual dinner on Oct. 23 in Iowa City. Their names are added in the “Uncommon Wall” display at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum in West Branch.

The Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association is a private nonprofit support group for the Hoover Presidential Library-Museum and 186 acre National Historic Site in West Branch, Iowa. The three entities work together to honor the only Iowan ever elected to our nation’s presidency.

## 2013 Recipients

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Senator Amanda  
Ragan



Representative Dave  
Heaton

The Uncommon Public Service Award was set up by the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association to honor those public servants who make use of their time doing service work and humanitarian projects. While the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association appoints a panel of judges from the Board of Trustees, the Association requests the public to nominate a legislator who exemplifies and demonstrates honesty, integrity and uncommon and extraordinary public service to the people of Iowa. The nominees are judged solely on their public service and humanitarian projects. Names, locations and political affiliation of the nominated legislators are not seen by the judges.

Each year the two Uncommon Public Service Award recipients have come from and represented both political parties.

“Being a politician is a poor profession. Being a public servant is a noble one.” Herbert Hoover

This years Uncommon Public Service Awards went to Senator Amanda Ragan and Representative Dave Heaton

**Senator Ragan** has worked to pass legislation to better the lives of children, the elderly, low income and disabled Iowans. She is respected on both sides of the aisle and works in a bipartisan, cooperative and collaborative manner.

Dr. Debra Derr, president of North Iowa Area Community College, made the following comments while nominating Senator Ragan for the award: “North Central Iowa is so fortunate to have Senator Ragan represent us. Her commitment to education and to our communities provides us with a strong and constant voice. She has supported community colleges and truly understands our mission. She ties what NIACC can do for its communities with economic and workforce development.”

In the Senate, Senator Ragan quickly became a leader. Her peers chose her to serve as an assistant majority leader in 2002, a position which she continues to hold. Senator Ragan is currently chair of the Senate Human Resources Committee, Vice Chair of the Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee, and also serves on Appropriations, Natural Resources and Environment, Rules and Administration and Veterans Affairs Senate committees.

Outside the Legislature, Sen. Ragan works as executive director of Meals on Wheels and of Community Kitchen of Northern Iowa. She is married to Jim Ragan and has two grown children and four grandchildren.

**Dave Heaton** represents Henry County and the northern portion of Lee County. He has served in the Iowa House of Representatives since January 1995.

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Rep. Heaton is a former public school teacher and served in the United States Army Reserve 872nd Ordinance Company. He and his wife, Carmen, are the parents of two grown children and have two grandchildren.

In his nomination of Rep. Heaton, former State Representative Jeff Kaufmann said, “Rep. David Heaton demonstrates on a daily basis that the true leader is the person who brings people together to overcome challenges. He is a leader who serves as an anchor for others wishing to grow, learn, and lead. Dave Heaton is a champion for those lowans who are most vulnerable: children, citizens with mental health issues, the disabled, and the tens of thousands of lowans receiving Medicaid services. He fights for them each and every day. He has never hesitated to debate and fight forces in either political party who stands in his way of trying to provide the best services the State can afford.”

## 2012 Recipients

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State Senator Steve Soddors (D, Dist. 36)



Representative Royd Chambers (R, 5th Dist.)

The Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association in West Branch awarded the fourth annual Hoover Uncommon Public Service Award to **State Senator Steve Soddors (D, Dist. 36)** and **Representative Royd Chambers (R, 5th Dist.)**

The award commemorates Iowa native Herbert Hoover, 31st president of the United States, and honors his unwavering commitment to public service and volunteerism.

The award takes its name from a 1948 speech in which Hoover said, “Let us remember that the great human advances have not been brought about by distinctly mediocre men and women. They were brought about by distinctly uncommon people with vital sparks of leadership.”

The Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association is a private nonprofit support group for the Hoover Presidential Library-Museum and 186 acre National Historic Site in West Branch, Iowa. The three entities work together to honor the only lowan ever elected to our nation’s presidency.

## 2011 Recipients

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State Senator Robert  
E. Dvorsky (D, Dist. 37)



Representative Annette  
Sweeney (R, Dist. 44)

The Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association presented the Hoover Uncommon Public Service Award to **State Senator Robert E. Dvorsky (D, Dist. 37)** and **Representative Annette Sweeney (R, Dist. 44)** in a ceremony at the State Capitol Building in Des Moines.

The award commemorates Iowa native Herbert Hoover, 31st president of the United States, and honors his unwavering commitment to public service and volunteerism. The award takes its name from a 1948 speech in which Hoover said, “Let us remember that the great human advances have not been brought about by distinctly mediocre men and women. They were brought about by distinctly uncommon people with vital sparks of leadership.”



## 2010 Recipients

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State Senator Daryl  
Beall (D, 5th District)



State Representative  
Lance J. Horbach (R, Tama)

The Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association presented the Hoover Uncommon Public Service Award to **State Senator Daryl Beall (D, 5th District)** and **State Representative Lance J. Horbach (R, Tama)** in a ceremony at the State Capitol Building in Des Moines.

The award commemorates Iowa native Herbert Hoover, 31st president of the United States, and honors his unwavering commitment to public service and volunteerism. The award takes its name from a 1948 speech in which Hoover said, “Let us remember that the great human advances have not been brought about by distinctly mediocre men and women. They were brought about by distinctly uncommon people with vital sparks of leadership.”

## 2009 Recipients

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State Senator Dennis  
Black (D, Newton)



State Representative  
Jeff Kaufmann (R, Wilton)

The Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association awarded the third annual Hoover Uncommon Public Service Award to **State Senator Dennis Black (D, Newton)** and **State Representative Jeff Kaufmann (R, Wilton)** in a ceremony at the State Capitol Building in Des Moines, on Tuesday, March 24, 2009. Former Governor Robert Ray announced the winners of the award, recognizing one representative and one senator who have demonstrated uncommon public service to Iowans.

The award commemorates Iowa native Herbert Hoover, 31st president of the United States, and honors his unwavering commitment to public service and volunteerism. The award takes its name from a 1948 speech in which Hoover said, “Let us remember that the great human advances have not been brought about by distinctly mediocre men and women. They were brought about by distinctly uncommon people with vital sparks of leadership.”

Black and Kaufmann were chosen for their “sparks of leadership.”

Black is serving his fourth term in the Senate, representing District 21, including parts of Polk County and all of Jasper County. He previously served six terms in the Iowa House of Representatives.

Senator Black is an advocate for Iowa’s environment. He has helped clean up Iowa’s air and water and championed recreational opportunities to improve our quality of life.

He served as director of the Jasper County Conservation Board for 35 years and has authored many resource management publications. He has shown strong international leadership, assisting in bringing Iowa to the world, highlighting the need for improved agricultural trade.

Senator Black has received numerous awards for his tireless efforts to improve, preserve and enhance our environment, improve public acceptance of Iowans of foreign birth, and enhance the cultural and trade opportunities between Iowa and other nations.

Representative Jeff Kaufmann represents District 79 in eastern Iowa. First elected in 2004, Kaufmann is a teacher and farmer, with a passionate interest in preserving Iowa history. Currently a history and government educator at Muscatine Community College, Kaufmann is an active member of the Cedar County Historical Society and has received state awards for aiding in preserving local history.

He communicates regularly with his constituents through newspaper columns and e-mail messages, explaining complicated issues before the House of Representatives. As a member of the Farm Bureau, Pheasants Forever, Friends of the American Legion and National Heritage Association, he combines his professional and legislative interests with volunteer work.

Kaufmann is Assistant Minority Leader of the House and serves on five regular committees. He personifies the best of young leadership on the local and state level.

## 2008 Recipients

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State Senator  
David Johnson  
(R, Ocheyedan)



State Representative  
Mark Smith  
(D, Marshalltown)

The Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association in West Branch awarded the second annual Hoover Uncommon Public Service Award to **State Senator David Johnson (R, Ocheyedan)** and **State Representative Mark Smith (D, Marshalltown)**.

**Senator David Johnson** is serving his second term in the Senate, representing District 3 in northwest Iowa. Previously he was a state representative from the area.

A native of West Branch, Johnson owned and published the West Branch Times, where he garnered many state awards and was recognized by the National Newspaper Association. His tenacious volunteer work in West Branch helped revitalize downtown, leading to the inclusion of the business district on the National Register of Historic Places.

While many awards came his way from his civic work, a move to northwest Iowa as a dairy farmer propelled him to service on the state level. His committee assignments include Agriculture, Appropriations, Education, Human Resources, and Natural Resources and Environment. These all reflect the interests to which he has devoted many years of volunteer work.

**Representative Mark Smith** was first elected to House District 43, Marshalltown, in 2000. A licensed social worker for 34 years, his expertise centers on mental health treatment for children and adults. He is employed at a substance abuse center.

While his service to community and the state has been exemplary, he has reached beyond state borders to offer his expertise after national tragedies such as the World Trade Center attacks and Hurricane Katrina. He continues to provide transitional services to members of the Iowa National Guard who return from active duty in Iraq.

## 2007 Recipients

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State Senator John  
(Jack) Kibbie of  
Emmetsburg



State Representative  
J. Scott Raecker of  
Urbandale

On April 16, 2007, The Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association in West Branch awarded the first annual Hoover Uncommon Public Service Award to **State Senator John (Jack) Kibbie of Emmetsburg** and **State Representative J. Scott Raecker of Urbandale**. Hoover Presidential Library Association Board Member and former Governor, Robert Ray presented the awards at the Iowa State Capitol Building.

**Senator Kibbie** is serving his sixth term in the Legislature, representing Emmet, Kossuth, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, and Humboldt Counties and part of Webster County. Currently president of the Iowa Senate, he first served in the House in the 1960s, successfully managing the bill that developed Iowa's community college system. After 20 years in the private sector, he was re-elected in 1988 to the Senate.

He serves on the Rules & Administration, Ethics, Agriculture, State Government, Administrative Rules, and Veterans Affairs Committee. He provides an active voice for agriculture in the legislature and in many organizations.

**Representative Raecker** has served House District 63, Urbandale, since 1999. He serves on the Education, Ethics, State Government, and Appropriations Committees. Before joining the Legislature, he led the state's Sesquicentennial Commission.

Currently he is the executive director of the Institute for Character Development, another opportunity to positively impact the lives of Iowans.