

IA VETS CAUCUS NEWS

Democratic Statewide Candidates

Governor

- Rob Sand

Attorney General

- Nate Willems

Secretary of State

- Ryan Peterman

State Auditor

- Taylor Wettach

Secretary of Agriculture

- Chris Jones

State Treasurer

- John Norwood

US Senate

- Zach Wahls

- Josh Turek



National Guardsmen Return From Mideast Deployment

More than two hundred Iowa Army National Guard members arrived back in Iowa after their Middle Eastern deployment last year.



Guard members provided support for Operation Inherent Resolve, a 2014 initiative to defeat ISIS forces positioned in both Iraq and Syria. Returning Guard soldiers belonged to the 2nd Brigade

Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division. The unit spent nearly a year in the field and the two Iowa soldiers killed in Syria came from this unit.

Honoring Our Lost Brothers and Sisters

On May 25, we honor the men and women who lost their lives in service to this country. Throughout the country, veterans organizations will host a variety of events to remember our lost brothers and sisters.



Throughout American history, family members decorated the graves of their loved ones lost during military service. Formalizing a date for remembrance originated with Maj. Gen. John Logan who led the Grand Army of the Republic, a large and influential veterans organization. On May 5, 1868,

Democratic Congressional Candidates

First District

- Christina Bohannon
- Travis Terrell

Second District

- Kathy Dolter
- Lindsay James
- Clint Twedt-Ball

Third District

- Sarah Trone-Garriott

Fourth District

- Stephanie Steiner
- Ashley WolfTornabane
- Dave Dawson



Ia Vets Caucus News is a publication of the Iowa Democratic Veterans Caucus.

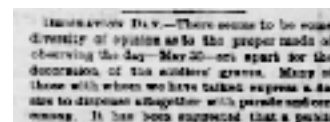
Chair - Steve Wilson
 Vice Chair - Shelly Servadio Elias
 Provisional - Bob Krause



he issued General Order 11 which established a memorial day called Decoration Day on 30 May as a day for decoration of the graves stones marking burial of Union war dead.

In 1873, the New York state assembly enacted legislation that formally recognized Decoration Day as a holiday and according to the National Cemetery Administration, by 1890, all forty-two states recognized Decoration Day. Though the original focus was on Union Civil War deaths, Americans broadened the meaning of the day to include all those killed in service to America.

The first references to Decoration Day appear in 1871, but from the newspaper article text in the May 7, 187 *Daily Register*, this was not the first event. The paper noted “preparations being made in different parts of the state” by Iowans. It also appears that the May 30th date was not fixed, but decided upon.



For Iowans, this year’s Memorial Day has a bit more meaning after losing four Iowans, two Army National Guard members and two Army Reservists since the 2025 commemoration.

One-hundred years after General Order No. 11, Congress recognized Memorial Day as an official holiday, moving the commemoration to the last Monday in May. Though to most Americans the weekend marks the unofficial beginning of summer with bbqs and camping, for those who suffered the loss of a family member or friend, the day is a somber reminder that freedom does not come without a price.



Ammunition Plant Resumes Production

According to a report in the *Des Moines Register*, the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant in Middletown resumed operations on March 30. The Army had halted manufacturing nearly



Got a topic you'd like to see in the newsletter? Want the opportunity to communicate with veterans across the United States? Like working with graphics?

Then the Ia Vets Caucus News WANTS YOU! Working together makes us stronger and you can help! Steve Wilson at chair@iavetscaucus.org to volunteer.



Contact Us

Feel free to send any questions or comments to Steve Wilson at chair@iavetscaucus.org.



three weeks earlier to address safety concerns around the storage of lead azide, a highly explosive compound used in blasting caps and shells.



In a press release, Lt. Col. Dan Nosse expressed gratitude “for the patience of our skilled workforce and the community,” saying the Army is “confident in our safety protocols and are ready to get back to work.” The massive ammunition plant employs eight-hundred people.



Veterans Join No Kings Protests

Thousands of Iowans frustrated with the country’s direction turned out at more than sixty different events across the state to protest the Trump Administration.



Iowa Public Radio reported three hundred attendees at the event in Sioux City. Both Cedar Rapids and Des Moines attracted well over two-thousand Iowans expressing their displeasure.

Dennis Turner, a Marine Corps veteran who did two tours in Vietnam called what the course of action convicted felon Donald Trump is taking as “outrageous.” In particular, he was angry with Trump taking the US to war with Iran.

In between instances of the crowd singing the national anthem, Army veteran Larry Enlebritson ran through a litany of complaints that included Trump’s illegal war and administration corruption.



DNC Fires Its National Vets Council Officers

Less than a year after Democratic National Committee oversaw the Veterans and Military Families Council elections to fill spots for the group's executive team, DNC leaders removed those individuals and plan to appoint new leaders sometime in the future.

Six months of conflict between chairs culminated in a March 30 call to the VMFC co-chairs and vice chairs from Gabriel Uy, National Coalitions Director, informing each of them the DNC was removing them from their position. According to multiple vice-chairs, Uy used "disbanded" to describe the party's action towards the elected council.

The Monday firing came four days after DNC officials emailed members a notification that they were canceling the VMFC's planned meeting during the DNC's spring conference in New Orleans. The conflict between chairs reached a tipping point requiring DNC action, but did not afford enough time for the organization to implement changes and still have the April event.

In a statement, Uy said "The DNC deeply values the work of the Veterans and Military Families Council" and he hopes the shake-up will "ensure the council is effective and impactful for years to come."

The DNC expects to establish a new set of bylaws consistent with regulations guiding other DNC sponsored councils and caucuses. Lack of a formalized reporting structure and clear job responsibilities created a variety of conflicts between the vice-chairs and co-chairs.



State Vets Council Chair Reports on Latest Activities

Iowa Vets Council Chair Steve Wilson updated attendees of April's Iowa Vets Caucus meeting on the latest changes undertaken to improve communication and increase caucus visibility.

Wilson introduced Scott Yeazle, a person with web creation experience, as the point person to get the Iowa Vets Caucus website up and running and provide links out to additional caucus social media properties including Facebook and Bluesky.

Connection issues with Zoom shortened the assembly. However, the caucus plans on a full session with updates at its May meeting which will be on Wednesday, the 20th at 1800 via Zoom.



Want to Help the Iowa Vets Caucus?

The Iowa Vets Caucus is looking for volunteers to help out with a variety of activities around caucus communications. These jobs will not require committing more than two or three hours each month. If



you are interested, send an email with how you would like to help to chair@iavetscaucus.org

- Write one article every other month on a topic provided by the editorial staff.
- Help out with newsletter layout
- Make changes to the caucus website
- Make additions, edits, or deletions to our email distribution groups.



What You Can Do...

Convicted felon Donald Trump initiated a war with Iran having no plan for supporting our military members beyond a few weeks. Now that his hope for a quick resolution is over, the failure to have logistics in place to maintain combat readiness is apparent. Please send a note to our elected officials demanding they act to resolve this problem.

Sen/Rep. <name>

Why have you not called Pete Hegseth before your committees to explain his department's failure to provide adequate food and supplies to our military members deployed to the Middle East.

Respectfully,

Senator Chuck Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Joni Ernst
260 Russell Senate Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20510

First Congressional District

Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks
504 Cannon House Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20515

Second Congressional District

Rep. Ashley Hinson
2458 Rayburn House Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20515

Third Congressional District

Rep. Zach Nunn
1410 Longworth House Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20515

Fourth Congressional District

Rep Randy Feenstra
2434 Rayburn House Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20515



Upcoming Senate Candidate Events

Zach Wahls

- May 9 - 6 pm Dubuque County Dems Hall of Fame
- May 12 - 6 pm in Cedar Rapids
- May 20 - 6 pm in Waterloo
- May 26 - 6 pm in Dubuque
- May 27 - 5 pm in Mt. Vernon

Josh Turek

His website does not list upcoming events

1st Congressional District Candidate Events

Christina Bohannon

- At press time, he had no May events listed on his website

Travis Terrell

- At press time, he had no May events listed on his website

2nd Congressional District Candidate Events

Kathy Dolter

- May 5 - 5 pm - FUSE - Dyersville
- May 9 - 10:30 am - Hiawatha Public Library
- May 9 - 6 pm - Dubuque Democratic Hall of Fame - Diamond Jo
- May 11 - Luther College - Decorah
- May 12 - 5 pm - Pub on the Cedar - Charles City

Lindsey James

- May 3 - 3 pm - Lacy Mansion - Dubuque
- May 7 - 6 pm - Vinton Public Library

Clint Twedt-Bell

- At press time, he had no May events listed on his website

4th Congressional District Candidate Events

Stephanie Steiner

- At press time, he had no May events listed on his website

Ashley WolfTornabane

- At press time, he had no May events listed on his website

Dave Dawson

- At press time, he had no May events listed on his website



Contested Primary Candidate Websites

US Senate

- Wahls For Us - zachwahls.com
- Turek For Iowa - turek4iowa.com

First Congressional District

- Bohannon For Congress - bohannonforcongress.com
- Terrell For Congress - terrellforcongress.com

Second Congressional District

- Dolter For Congress - dolterforcongress.org
- Lindsay James For Congress - www.lindsayforiowa.com
- Clint For Congress - clintforiowa.com

Third Congressional District

- Sarah For Iowa Congress - sarahforiowa.com
- Xavier Carrigan For Iowa's 3rd - www.xcarrigan.com

Fourth Congressional District

- Stephanie Steiner For Congress - votestephaniesteinerforiowadistrict4.org
- Ashley WolfTornabane For Congress - www.wolftornabaneforiowa.com
- Dave Dawson For US House - davedawsonforiowa.com



In the General Assembly



The Legislature crossed its one-hundred day mark without having passed any significant legislation to improve the lives of veterans. With per diem ending and major issues on property taxes, eminent domain, and the state budget still unresolved, Iowa Veterans will again be left out of any benefits specifically targeted to help us.



Significant Dates

- May 5** - Midwest Honor Flight out of Sioux Falls, South Dakota
- May 11** - Dubuque and Tri-States Honor Flight out of Dubuque.
- May 12** - Eastern Iowa Honor Flight out of Cedar Rapids.
- Dubuque and Tri-States Honor Flight out of Dubuque
- May 13** - In-office absentee voting can begin.
- May 18** - Last day to register to vote.
- May 19** - Midwest Honor Flight out of Sioux Falls, South Dakota
- May 20** - Iowa Vets Caucus via Zoom.
- May 26** - Memorial Day
- June 1** - In-office absentee voting ends.
- June 2** - Iowa Primary
- Midwest Honor Flight out of Sioux Falls, South Dakota



And Finally...

In a Veterans Administration email touting “Trust in VA soars to all-time high,” was this section. Hopefully the care is better than the spelling.

