

# IA VETS CAUCUS NEWS

## Democratic Statewide Candidates

### Governor

- Rob Sand
- Julie Stauch

### Attorney General

- Nate Willems

### Secretary of State

- Ryan Peterman

### State Auditor

- Taylor Wettach

### Secretary of Agriculture

- Wade Dooley
- Chris Jones

### State Treasurer

- John Norwood

### US Senate

- Zach Wahls
- Josh Turek
- Bob Krause



## Iowa Vets Caucus Elects Next Leaders



On February 18th, attendees to the Iowa Democratic Veterans Caucus Zoom meeting selected Army veteran Steve Wilson of Cedar Rapids to chair the organization and Army veteran Shelly Servadio Elias as Vice Chair. Electors chose Bob Krause for the provisional position to attend Democratic State Central Committee meetings in the event neither Wilson or Servadio Elias can attend.

Wilson takes over for the departing chair, Air Force veteran Scott Foens who completed the term of the 2024 elected chair after his resignation. Servadio Elias replaces Terri Wollenberg in the Vice Chair. Neither of the incumbents sought reelection.

In his nomination statement to the caucus, Wilson emphasized the group's mission to help elect Democrats in the upcoming election and to grow the membership through increasing communication to supporters.

A first step towards that objective is publication of this newsletter to keep Iowa Democrats informed about events and issues in the state.



## Democratic Congressional Candidates

### First District

- Christina Bohannon
- Travis Terrell

### Second District

- Kathy Dolter
- Lindsay James
- Guy Morgan
- Don Primus
- Clint Twedt-Ball

### Third District

- Sarah Trone-Garriott
- Xavier Carrigan

### Fourth District

- Stephanie Steiner
- Ashley WolfTornabane
- Dave Dawson

*Listings are based on announcements through December 2025 and are subject to change. Final list of names appearing on ballots will not be settled until after March 13.*



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

Editor - Scott Foens

Send subscription requests to [chair@iavetscaucus.org](mailto:chair@iavetscaucus.org)

# Iowa Veterans Caucus Statement Regarding Attack on Iran

The Iowa Democratic Veterans Caucus **VEHEMENTLY** opposes convicted felon Donald Trump’s unnecessary attack on



Iran. His order puts our national treasure, the men and women of the United States military, at grave risk when that country poses no immediate

national security threat to US interests in the region.

Less than three months ago, Middle eastern militants attack an Iowa National Guard unit deployed to Syria, killing two Iowans and injuring three others. Trump’s reckless adventure places Iowa’s greatest assets, its young men and women, in jeopardy without any immediate national security threat.

Iowa’s congressional delegation should **IMMEDIATELY** propose legislation to either sanction or end this conflict, consistent with the requirements of the Constitution.



## Sage Bows Out



Indianola—Nathan Sage ended his campaign to become the Democrats’ Senate nominee on February 15, 107 days before Iowa’s primary election.

In an emotion-laden video posted on his campaign social media accounts, Sage told supporters “we were simply unable to raise the financial resources” necessary to continue forward.



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.



Campaign success hinges on donations substantially exceeding campaign expenses and filings with the Federal Election Commission reveal Sage struggled in this department.

The campaign's December 2025 filing reported raising more than 1.33 million dollars, but incurred 1.26 million dollars in expenses. This burn rate left Sage with just over 86,000 dollars on-hand at a time when campaigns spend greater amounts to get the candidate's message out prior to the June election.

For comparison purposes, Zach Wahls received 2.046 million and spent 1.312 million dollars and Josh Turek secured 1.686 million while spending 1.276 million during the same period. Wahls had 733,489 dollars on-hand and with Turek's balance at 398,473 dollars. No campaign report could be located for Bob Krause's Senate pursuit.

Sage was the first to enter the race for the Democratic nomination with a video release on April 16, 2025. A military veteran, having served in both the Marine Corps and the Army, Sage served three tours in the Middle East. After separating from the Army, he graduated from Kansas State University and returned to Iowa to become the News and Sports director for two radio stations. When he made his announcement, Sage was working at the Executive Director for the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce.



His pugilistic tone and promise to fight for working Iowans appealed to a swath of Democrats looking for a forceful personality to match the tenor of convicted felon Donald Trump and the servile silence of Joni Ernst. Voter frustration with Ernst's surrender to Trump's clearly unqualified cabinet nominees led to a spike in Sage's popularity with the campaign amplifying one poll that reported Sage with a two-point lead over the two-term Senator.

Entrance of Wahls, a state senator from Coralville, and Turek, a state representative from Council Bluffs, created challenges for the Sage campaign. Both candidates entered the race with

greater name recognition and political connections due to their service in the General Assembly. Democrats, desperate to nominate a candidate who can win, began moving towards proven commodities rather than taking a risk.

Saying “this is not goodbye. It is ‘see you later,’” Sage exited the contest leaving Democrats with Wahls, Turek, and Krause as options.



## Reynolds Using Iowa State Patrol Airplane for Travel



*Cessna 208B Grand Caravan similar to one purchased by Iowa’s Department of Public Safety in December 2024.*

On February 24, the *Des Moines Register* reported that Governor Kim Reynolds frequently uses an Iowa State Patrol aircraft, purchased with federal money to help states deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The *Register* described a Reynolds junket to Waterloo for a ribbon cutting ceremony, then off to Davenport for another opening event before flying her back to Ankeny.

In another instance, Reynolds flew up to Sioux City for a visit and then held an event at the Orpheum Theatre where she endorsed Ashley Hinson for Senate before flying home.

The propeller-driven aircraft seats up to fourteen people and cost 2.3 million dollars. *Register* reports consulted Aviacost and found that the aircraft typically costs 830 dollars per hour to operate.

While serving as Reynolds’s personal taxi, the plane cannot be used for “aerial searches for missing persons, locating fugitives, providing surveillance during criminal investigations, and documenting crime scenes” which were all the reasons state official gave for the aircraft’s purchase.



## Portion of 185th Air Refueling Wing Returns from Deployment

Sioux City — On January 25, family members greeted a portion of the 185th Air Refueling Wing's airmen, returning to Iowa after a three month deployment to its "U.S. Central Command area of responsibility."



Colonel Adam Carlson, Wing commander, expressed pride in his unit's performance in desert conditions saying "We are incredibly proud of our returning Airmen and the critical mission they accomplished" and that "The work they do is nothing short of extraordinary."

Other members of the wing remained deployed and continue to support United States air operations in the region. They were expected to return later this, but with the current American operations against Iran, that return is an open question.



## Army National Guard Members Returning from Twelve Month Mideast Deployment

Des Moines — WHO television reports 575 members of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry

Division will be returning from their deployment to support Operation Inherent Resolve. This is a military initiative to suppress Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria.



This group of soldiers represents the second contingent to return back to Iowa. On February 11, approximately two-hundred members of the same unit arrived in both Sioux City and Des Moines where Kim Reynolds led the Welcome Home events.

Guard officials said that the cadence for returns is "based on mission completion, personnel needs, and transportation availability."

According to a Guard statement, "Every Soldier contributes to mission success and to ensuring the safe return of the force."

According to National Guard officials, "welcome home ceremonies will be conducted in Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, and Sioux City. Officials say more details regarding location and timing will be shared once the ceremony details are finalized."



# What You Can Do...



Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution:

“The Congress shall have Power ... To declare War.”

Please place a call, send a postcard, or mail a letter to your elected representatives in Congress reminding them that Congress and only Congress authorize the United States’s undertaking large-scale or continuing military operations.

You can simply say or write,

Rep/Sen

Only Congress can authorize war. Do your job and either enact legislation to undertake this attack against Iran.

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



# Contested Primary Candidate Websites

## **Governor**

- Rob Sand: Governor For All - [robsand.com](http://robsand.com)
- Julie Stauch For All Iowans - [www.juliestauchforalliowans.com](http://www.juliestauchforalliowans.com)

## **Secretary of Agriculture**

- Wade Dooley - [www.wadedooley.com](http://www.wadedooley.com)
- Chris Jones - [chrisjonesforiowa.com](http://chrisjonesforiowa.com)

## **US Senate**

- Wahls For Us - [zachwahls.com](http://zachwahls.com)
- Turek For Iowa - [turek4iowa.com](http://turek4iowa.com)
- Krause Cares For Democracy - [www.krausecares.org](http://www.krausecares.org)

## **First Congressional District**

- Bohannon For Congress - [bohannonforcongress.com](http://bohannonforcongress.com)
- Terrell For Congress - [terrellforcongress.com](http://terrellforcongress.com)

## **Second Congressional District**

- Dolter For Congress - [dolterforcongress.org](http://dolterforcongress.org)
- Lindsay James For Congress - [www.lindsayforiowa.com](http://www.lindsayforiowa.com)
- Clint For Congress - [clintforiowa.com](http://clintforiowa.com)
- Don Primus search reported no website
- Guy Morgan - [voteforyourguy.com](http://voteforyourguy.com)

## **Third Congressional District**

- Sarah For Iowa Congress - [sarahforiowa.com](http://sarahforiowa.com)
- Xavier Carrigan For Iowa's 3rd - [www.xcarrigan.com](http://www.xcarrigan.com)

## **Fourth Congressional District**

- Stephanie Steiner For Congress - [votestephaniesteinerforiowadistrict4.org](http://votestephaniesteinerforiowadistrict4.org)
- Ashley WolfTornabane For Congress - [www.wolftornabaneforiowa.com](http://www.wolftornabaneforiowa.com)
- Dave Dawson For US House - [davedawsonforiowa.com](http://davedawsonforiowa.com)



## Significant Dates

- February 23 - March 13** - Filing period for candidates to turn in nomination petitions.
- March 11** - Team Sand Partners Call
- March 18** - Iowa Vets Caucus via Zoom.
- March 24** - First day to request absentee ballot.
- April 8 - 11** - Democratic National Committee Quarterly Meeting in New Orleans.
- April 15** - Iowa Vets Caucus via Zoom.
- April 21** - Eastern Iowa Honor Flight out of Cedar Rapids.
- 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.
- June 1** - In-office absentee voting ends.
- June 2** - Iowa Primary  
- Midwest Honor Flight out of Sioux Falls, South Dakota



## A Little History...

- 1918 - Germany launches last ditch offensive against Allied forces on Western Front.
- 1942 - Japanese forces continued its march on Bataan.
- 1951 - UN announces 57,120 US casualties in its conflict with North Korea.
- 1967 - Italians protesting America's war in Vietnam threw yellow paint on VP Hubert Humphrey.
- 1983 - Iowa Treasurer Michael Fitzgerald asks stockbrokers to donate 100 dollars to his campaign.

