

Red Oak Grove Reporter

Issue No. 35

Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery

Fall 2024

Lest We Never Forget Our Veterans

Please join the 10th Annual Wreaths Across America Program on December 14 at 11:30 am

Atending this special program is a lovely way to show heart felt gratitude to all those who serve(d) in our military. Every day their vigilance, teamwork, skills and bravery have kept the world a safer place. An indoor recognition service honoring the 84 Veterans buried at Red Oak Grove Cemetery will start the program inside the church. Outdoor honors will begin with a rifle salute and will be followed by Taps. A beautiful live balsam wreath will then be placed on each Veterans' graves.

Wreaths Across America is a national event which starts at 11 am in Arlington National Cemetery annually. Smaller cemeteries such as Red Oak follow suit, but their celebrations must start a half hour later.



Pies Galore!



YUM – the day was a pie lover's paradise.

Numerous pies, one rhubarb strawberry crisp, and several gallons of ice cream were donated to make the October 6, 2024 Old Fashioned Pie and Ice Cream Social a big hit! The pies were delicious and made this fund-raising event a HUGE success. Mums donated by Jim Hanson, homemade pickled beets made by Roy Morris and cherry tomatoes were also donated and available for sale. All these goods plus the pie and ice cream were available for free will offerings. Thanks to the many pie bakers, volunteers and board members who worked at the event to make it run so smoothly! The harnessed Percheron team, pulling a festive green carriage was a highlight on this beautiful fall day as

Continued on next page...

Pies continued...

rides were given by Dwight Hughes and Kelly Lamb.

Special guests, Jim and Anne (Echlin) Bright of Bloomington, IN, enjoyed their first trip to Red Oak Grove for the pie and ice cream social. They visited the graves of Anne's great-grandparents, James and Margaret (Ritchie) Safley, and paternal grandparents, Rev. Roy and Margaret (Safley) Echlin. Margaret Echlin was born in Red Oak Township on January 9, 1880, the day her father, James Safley, died of pneumonia. Before her 1909 marriage, she was a history teacher.



Eric Stojahan tried apple pie as Daisy Wingert added his ice cream.

In Memoriam: Red Oak Grove Cemetery

Nelson Ray Meyers, 72, born in Chambersburg, PA on November 10, 1951 passed away on April 30, 2024. Funeral services and a luncheon reception were held May 6, 2024 at the United Church of Christ in Tipton, Iowa. His interment followed the service at Red Oak Grove Cemetery. His wife, Marcia and daughters Penny (Scotty) Pratt and Stacy Irons and sisters Janice Meyers and Linda Tebussek, along with three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren and many other relatives survive him. Nelson proudly served in the US Army.

John David Tholen, 76, Tipton, was born June 27, 1947 and passed away April 6th, 2024. A Celebration of Life was held in his honor on April 12, 2024, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Stanwood, Iowa. His interment was at Red Oak Grove Cemetery directly following the Celebration of Life. His wife, Kathryn, and children Kim (Mark) Nelson, Scott (Jo-Jo), Tracie (Jason) Wiegert and Kellie (Correy) Rahn and 11 grandchildren, sister, brother/sisters-in-laws, and several distant relatives survive him.

Marvin D. Miller, 87, Tipton, died at the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinic on March 4, 2024. He was born in Rome, IA on June 12, 1936. Marv's Celebration of Life was on June 1st at the Tipton Country Club. His daughters Kimberly (Craig) Regennitter and Michelle Lehmeier, his six grandchildren and five great grandchildren survive him.

Linda Eliason, 77, born on September 25, 1946 in Iowa City, died on July 17, 2024. A Celebration of Life and luncheon to honor her was held on July 20, 2024 at Tipton's First United Church of Christ. She was laid to rest at Red Oak Grove Cemetery, also on July 20, 2024. Her children, Katherine (Joey) Black, Chris (Jill) Timmerman, Cody Eliason, Kevin (Mindy) Eliason, Catlin Eliason, and Kyle Eliason and eight grandchildren survive her. Siblings are Carol (Mike) Thomann, Dianne (Dwight) Glenney, Marty Moylan, Don (Lisa) Challis, Ron (Maggie) Challis, and Dean (Ruth) Challis.

Sharon Wagner, 82, born on July 13, 1942 in Hammond IN, died at home on August 8th in Davenport, Iowa. Sharon's visitation and funeral was on August 17th at New Life Baptist Church in Davenport. Her burial at Red Oak Grove Cemetery followed the service on August 17th. She is survived by her husband Alvin Wagner and her niece Candy.

Alan Daedlow, 74, Tipton, was born March 7, 1950 and passed on September 6, 2024. A funeral service and luncheon were held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Tipton on September 11, 2024. His interment at Red Oak Grove Cemetery, occurred between the service and luncheon. His wife Kathy, and three children Michelle (Chad) Zear, Ryan (Dionne) Daedlow and Nathan (Emily) Daedlow, 10 grandchildren and four great grandchildren survive him along with a sister-in law, nephew and several nieces.

William “Bill” Tate, 73 of Lisbon, was born on April 28, 1951. He passed away on September 20, 2024. Family and friends gathered at Stewart Baxter Funeral & Memorial Services in Mount Vernon on September 26, 2024. A private interment at Red Oak Grove Cemetery was on October 31st. His survivors include wife, Marcy (Edler) Tate, daughter Jenny Marie (Mike Moore) and son William Dawson Tate, grandchildren Maya and Jasper, and bonus grandchildren Mars, Zander, Kimmy, Josie and Gracie; and his two sisters Marsha Tate and Judy (Steve) McVay.

Willard Leroy Gaunt, 83, died at home on September 27, 2024. Willard was born in Iowa City on August 1, 1941. Graveside services with Ron Lashmit officiating, were held at Red Oak Grove Cemetery on October 2, 2024. He was preceded in death by his wife Frances Eilane Barkalow in 2016. He is survived by his sons: Neil (Robin), Rick (Kristy), Stan (DeeDee), Steve (Jennifer), Robert and Doug, and seven grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and two sisters, Viola and Marie.

David Kendall Brobst, 68, died in his home on October 7, 2024. He was born in Estherville, Iowa on October 3, 1956. A gathering for family and friends was held at Fry Funeral Home on the afternoon of October 26th with interment following at Red Oak Grove Cemetery. His wife, Jennifer Gail (Zimmer) Brobst, 59, preceded him in death on September 12, 2020. She was born in Lincoln, NE on March 18, 1961 and also passed away at home. After enlisting in the Navy, David served his country for 20 years. David and Jennifer are survived by two sons, Owen and Nathan (Katie) and two grandsons, Tripp and Nolan; his mother Donna Mae Brobst and four siblings.

Heroes on Many ‘Fronts’

Maintaining the headstones at Red Oak Grove Cemetery is a priority of the current Board of Directors. This work is another testament to the local respect shown to our heroes who gave so much to serve their country. The headstones of John W. McEowen and John McEowen, Jr., were sinking. They were repaired last spring by Eric Storjohann, Red Oak Grove’s Assistant Sexton, and then cleaned by Daisy Wingert this fall (see photo right).

Projects for veteran stone restoration is funded by the Cedar County Pioneer Cemetery Commission, with funds allotted by the Cedar County Supervisors each year. The goal being that all Cedar County Veterans have a gravestone standing and restored.

Cemeteries can be historically interesting and the stories behind the deceased are often forgotten to the majority. A truly unique story is that of John W. (John Sr.) and John Jr. McEowen. They are buried next to one another at Red Oak and both have military designations. Not many families had a parent and two children serve in the same

Continued on next page...



Heroes continued...

war. John Sr. and John Jr.'s service time even overlapped a few months as they both enlisted in the fall of 1942. However, John W. was discharged from the Army in December of 1942 and John Jr. a Seaman First Class in the U.S Naval Reserves served a full four years until February of 1946. Another unique aspect of this family was that John Sr.'s obituary in 1974, stated he served in two wars, WWI and WWII. What kind of toll does that take on a man? John Sr.'s son Frank (1927-2013) served in the U.S. Navy in WWII also and is buried in Cedar Rapids. After the war, John Sr. worked at Wilson and

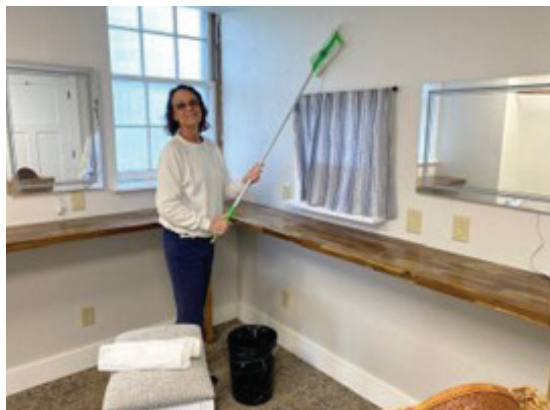
Co. and was a member of Hanford American Legion Post, both in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Society talks about Veterans who gave the 'ultimate' sacrifice serving their country. Sadly, John Jr.'s service and re-entry to home life may have created much emotional turmoil. He committed suicide in his home from a rifle gunshot to his forehead in May of 1947. His death was possibly related to war trauma or as we know it today, from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). His obituary stated he was survived by his mother, father, sister, brother, stepbrother and stepsister.

Grateful for All Volunteers

On April 27, 2024 an Autumn Blaze Maple tree was planted by the front yard fence, and outside yard work was done by the following volunteers: Bob Rickard, Angie Keller, Aron Keller, Don Parker, Mark Penningroth, Craig Smith, Dwight Hughes, Rich Urban, Chris Sanders, and Mike Herring. The inside cleaning crew was small but mighty and included John Barnum, Nancy Stewart, Wanda Whitmer, and Brenda Emick-Herring. Barb Rickard brought a tasty lunch at noon for everyone to enjoy.

Tree care, removal of twigs and tree branches and leaf raking are annual tasks at Red Oak. Please note the new maple tree that was planted.



John Barnum and Nancy Stewart are shown cleaning the sanctuary while Wanda Whitmer was busy in the Bridal Changing Room.

Monetary donors: Oct. 21, 2023 through Oct. 20, 2024.

Many thanks to all the donors who help to keep Red Oak Grove a beautiful, unique and extremely well-preserved place. Without your generosity, we could not do it. You are appreciated! If you sent a gift and your name is not on the list, your gift must have arrived after this issue of *The Reporter* went to print in late November. Your name will appear on the 2025 list of monetary donors.

Steve & Mary Agne, Tipton
Jim & Julie Agne, Solon
In memory of Isaac Carl
Jo Ann Ahrendsen, Mechanicsville
Angela Alsip, Austin, TX
In memory of Beverly Ferguson Stinson
Scott & Karen Anderson, Tipton
In memory of James Fulwider
Ric & Barb Aquilani, Clinton
John & Dianne Austad, Marion
Bridge Community Bank, Mechanicsville
Merlyn & June Beckler, Tipton
Tom & Ruth Beckmann, Tipton
In memory of Vernon Beckmann
Charlene Bixler, Lowden
In memory of Charles William Findlay
Ruffin & Gwenda Booth, Peachtree Corners, GA
In memory of Penningroth & Safley Families
Laurie Brandenburg, Tipton
Dick & Linda Brennan, Tipton
In memory of Barney & Virginia Laing
Joanne Brennan, Tipton
In memory of Jim Brennan
Jim and Anne Bright, Bloomington, IN
Wayne & Jo Brown, Stanwood
Tim Campbell, Cedar Rapids
*In memory of Paul, Ruth, Steve Campbell
Lawrence & Janet Carl, Des Moines*
Denny & Marilyn Carney, Tipton
*In memory of Ronald, Dorothy Anderson & Karen
Achey*
Diane Chambliss, Tipton
In memory of Ronald Chambliss
Jim & Mary Clark, Tipton
In memory of Robert & Evelyn Clark
Robert Coppess, Stanwood
In memory of Linda Eliason
Max & Grace Coppess, Stanwood

Pat Crowley, Tipton
In memory of Jack Crowley
John & Carol Crowley, Tipton
*In memory of Harold, Dorothy & Maryann
Harmsen Jack Crowley & Carolyn Crowley*
Wayne & LaVonne Deerberg, Tipton
Shirley Ehlers, Tipton
Jerry & Betty Elijah, Tipton
Glenn & Ellen Fear, Tipton
Gail Fleming, Tipton
In memory of Gary L Fleming
Hobert & Theresa Flory, Stanwood
In memory of Chad Flory
Dave Flory, Goodyear, AZ
In memory of Chad Flory
Patti Fonteyne, Tipton
Donna Gault, Tipton
In memory of Franklin L Gault
Shirley Gadelmann, Clarence
Shirley Gibbs, Clarence
Michele Gipson, Bennett
In memory of Ed & Jo Dietz
Dwight & Dianne Glenney, Muscatine
In memory of Don & Mary Challis
Mike & Denise Goetz, Tipton
In memory of Rick Rochau
T.A. Hain, Haltom, TX
Sherry Hall, Tipton
John & Julianne Hall, Clinton
In memory of Harold & Dorothy Harmsen
Dennis Harmsen, Iowa City
*In memory of Harold, Dorothy & Maryann
Harmsen*
Steve & Beverly Harmsen, Papillion, NE
*In memory of Harold, Dorothy Harmsen, &
Maryann Harmsen*
Richard & Karen Hass, Cedar Rapids
Richard Hass, Cedar Rapids

Continued on next page...

Joann Hegarty, Stanwood
 John Hegarty, Swisher
In memory of Donald & Frances Hegarty
 Bill & Rebecca Heick, Williamsburg
In memory of Gerald & Ruth Crispin
 Carolyn Herring, Tipton
In memory of Ken Herring
 Mike & Brenda Herring, Mechanicsville
In memory of Ken Herring
 Bob & Glenda Holets, Tipton
 Velma Huebner, Clarence
In memory of Orval Huebner
 Dwight Hughes, Cedar Rapids
In memory of Ron Wingert
 John & Hillary Hughes, Cedar Rapids
In memory of Dwight & Hazel Hughes
 Merlin Hulse, Tipton
 Peter & Dennifer Kan, Greensboro, GA
In memory of Gene Ray Phelps & Delores J Phelps
 Chris & Angela Keller, Tipton
 Dean & Leslie Keller, Cedar Rapids
In memory of Max & Judy Keller
 Bruce & Ann Kern, Mechanicsville
In memory of Clarence & Vesta Kern
 Victor Kimberling, Mechanicsville
In memory of Vernon & Verna Kimberling
 Kevin & Deb Kinney, Oxford
 Jim & Jane Koch, Stanwood
 Calvin & Kris Kuehl, Tipton
 Robert & Joyce Kuhnle, Williamsburg
In memory of Ron Wingert
 Robert & Joyce Kuhnle, Marengo
In memory of all Kimberlings
 Ronald Laing, Tipton
In memory of John Laing & Merlin Laing
 Larry Laing, Tipton
In memory of John Laing
 Marlo Laing, Riverside
 Mark Laing, Stanwood
In memory of Bill, Mary, Jame, Lilly Laing
 Marlo Laing, Riverside
 Larry & Deb Laing, Tipton
In memory of John Laing

Mark Laing, Stanwood
In memory of Bill & Mary Laing; James & Lilly Laing
 Dan & Kathy Laing, Tipton
 Ronald Laing Tipton
In memory of John Henry Laing
 Hughes Nursery Landscaping, Cedar Rapids
In memory of Dwight & Hazel Hughes
 Verl Lekwa, Columbus Junction
 Phyllis Lenschow, West Branch
In memory of Elmer Flory
 Dennis & Karen Licht, Carmel, IN
 Ron & Dixie Martin, Tipton
In honor of Ron Martin
 Larry & Sherri Mathias, Saint Charles, IL
In memory of Cecil, Norma, & Randy Mathias
 Nancy Mathias, Tipton
In memory of Randy Mathias
 Lora Morrison, Lexington, KY
In memory of Betty Shoemaker Harris
 Marty Moylan, Tipton
In memory of Don Challis, Mary Challis, Linda Eliason
 Donna Oldorf, Cedar Rapids
In memory of David Becker
 Susan Olseen, Tipton
In memory of Gordon D Olseen
 Virginia Kimberling Osborn, Midland, OH
In memory of Vernon & Verna Kimberling & Ronald & Dorothy Anderson & TSG Harold E Osborn
 Susan Ovel, Cedar Rapids
In memory of Duane & Judy Bolton
 Don Parker, Cedar Rapids
In memory of Patrica Parker
 Rosemary Penningroth, Clive
 Rob & Angie Penningroth, Clarence
In memory of Ronald Chambliss & Janice Penningroth
 Thorin & Kelli Peugh/Haught, Mechanicsville
 Craig & Kim Regennitter, Tipton
In memory of Rick Rochau and Marvin & Kay Miller
 Challis Restoration, Clarence
In memory of Don & Mary Challis & Linda Eliason

Bob & Barb Rickard, Tipton
In memory of Betty Rickard
 Sharon Rife, Simi Valley, CA
In memory of Marvin Rife
 Caryn Ringoen, Albert Lea, MN
In memory of the Yule Family
 Kirk & Babetta Ruchotzke, Overland Park, KS
 Alan Safley, Springville
In memory of Cecil Mathias
 Sharon Schacht, Hunting Beach, CA
In memory of Erwin & Winona Hartig
 Roger & Gloria Schmidt, Clarence
 Todd & Tracy Schroeder, Stanwood
In memory of Max & Mary Schroeder
 Rusty & Jody Schroeder, Mechanicsville
 Julie Schroeder, Bennett
In memory of Linda Eliason
 Scott & Diane Schroeder, Mechanicsville
 Don Schroeder, Olin
In memory of Carol; Bob & Mary Schroeder
 June Seligman, Mechanicsville
In memory of James & Nora Fulwider
 Vella Simmermaker, Ames
In memory of Alberta Gritton Dagger
 Virginia Smith, Farmington, MO
In memory of Keith J Smith
 Connie Smith, Tipton
In memory of Mike Smith
 James & Lori Smith, Edina, MN
In memory of Don and Virginia Weih
 Craig Smith, Stanwood
 Mike & Pam St John, Stanwood
 Richard & Jean Sternberg, Ames
In memory of the Safleys
 Sharon Stiff, Tipton
In memory of Don Stiff
 Leroy & Cheryl Stolte, Stanwood
In memory of Jim Stolte
 Eric Storjohann, New Liberty
 Mark & Karen Stueland, Tipton
In memory of Paul Stueland and Cletus Steffen
 Ron & Bonnie Stutzel, Tipton
In memory of Mearl Laing
 Jerold Swinton, Des Moines
 Karen Safley Taylor, Springville

Steve & Dawn Thofson Northwood
In memory of the Yules & Howard Phelps
 Margaret Thomson, West Des Moines
In memory of Dick & Ann Thomson
 Joanne Thomson, Newhall
 Charline Thumm, Tipton
 Jack & Jan Troop, Green Valley, AZ
 Dr John Vander Zee, Cedar Rapids
 Eric & Lori Von Muenster, Ankeny
In memory of Linda Eliason
 Jeff & Phyllis Weih, Portland, OR
In memory of Duane & Judy Bolton
 Dean & Pam Wilkerson, West Branch
In memory of Mearl & Marvel Woode
 Lisa Williams, St Louis, MO
In memory of Duane & Judy Bolton
 Daisy Wingert, Tipton
In memory of Ron Wingert
 Jessica Wiskus, Lisbon
In memory of Davis Family
 Roger & Tina Woode, Lake Mary, FL
In memory of Mearl, Marvel & Marvin Woode
 Juliet Wurr, Long Beach, CA
 Anne Wurr, Petaluma, CA
In memory of Alice Rigby

In-kind Volunteers, Dec. 2023-2024

The following individuals gave Red Oak Grove their work time and effort, knowledge and expertise, or loans or gifts of supplies/equipment. A hearty thank you to all!

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| John Barnum | Brian & Mary Jo Heil | Ron Lashmit | Connie Smith |
| Lee Biene | Mike & Brenda Herring | Andy & Bridgett Owen | Nancy Stewart |
| Marilyn Carney | Carolyn Herring | Don Parker | Eric Storjohann |
| Bob Crawford | Dwight Hughes | Mark & Mathew Penningroth | Karen Taylor |
| Family Foods | Tom Hughes | Shelly Quinn | Mark Thumma |
| American Legion Honor Guard 123 | John Hughes | Bob & Barb Rickard | Boy Scout Troop 76 |
| VFW Honor Guard 2537 | Jeff Kaufmann | Allan Safley | Rich Urban |
| Sherry Hall | Chris, Angie & Aron Keller | Chris & Tiffany Sander | Wanda Whitmer |
| Reece & Klaudia Hall | Cheyenne & Leila Kofmehl | Lilly, Baxton, Mavenik Sander | Daisy Wingert |
| Race Hall | Kayla Kuehl | Scott & Noah Schroeder | |
| Jim Hansen | Kris Kuehl | Craig Smith | |
| | Kelly Lamb | | |

Mark Your Calendars So You Can Attend:

- **Wreaths Across America – Saturday, December 14, 2024 at 11:30 am**
(cookies/coffee/cocoa afterwards)
- **Spring Clean Up - Saturday, April 19, 2025 at 9 am**
(email Bob's address below to help; all hands are welcome and bring a friend if you wish)
- **Annual Celebration/Reunion/Potluck – Sunday, May 18, 2025 at 11 am**
- **Pie and Ice Cream Social – Sunday, October 5, 2025 at 1 pm**
- **Wreaths Across America – Saturday, December 13, 2025 at 11:30 am**

For information about purchase of plots, church rental, the wedding venue, or other matters pertaining to the church or cemetery, contact Bob Rickard, Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association President

Phone: (563) 886-6018

E-mail: bbrickiowa@gmail.com

Mail: P.O. Box 452, Tipton, IA 52772

Our web site is: www.redoakgrovecc.com

Find us on Facebook: [redoakgrovechurchandcemetery](https://www.facebook.com/redoakgrovechurchandcemetery)

Please consider making a lasting legacy to Red Oak Grove Cemetery Association, Inc. by asking your attorney to include, in your will, a final gift to the Red Oak Grove Association.