Red Oak Grove Reporter

Issue No. 39 | *Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery* | Fall 2026

Wreaths Across America is on December 19, 2026

Once again Cedar County Veterans buried at Red Oak Grove Cemetery will be remembered at the Wreaths Across America (WAA) ceremony themed, “Remember Me,” at 11:30 am on December 19th. The service begins inside Red Oak Grove Church with a military speaker from Iowa sharing his or her personal ‘service’ story. Names of individual veterans whose final resting place is in Red Oak Grove Cemetery will be read aloud to honor each one personally. Guests will then put live Balsam Fir wreaths on grave sites of each veteran. This holiday gesture is a simple way to thank these brave veterans for their service and sacrifices.

Last May at the Annual Celebration Reunion at Red Oak Grove Church, Jeff Kaufmann delivered the message emphasizing the 250th anniversary of our armed services. He stressed we must always pay homage to our soldiers because they defended our country all over the world; past and present. He said this is the peace we inherit but at staggering costs to our fallen and wounded soldiers. which ultimately gave all Americans freedom. Guests are invited to gather in the Red Oak Grove Church basement afterwards for cookies, coffee, cocoa, and conversation!



An Interesting Tidbit From the 1800's

Native Americans who lived on the fertile land west of the Mississippi River called it Iowa, their word for ‘beautiful land.’ Red Oak Grove Cemetery and Church grounds fall within that realm also.

A Collage of Photos from 2026





Thanks to Mark Penningroth, Rich Urban, Angie Keller, Mike Herring & Chris Sander for removing yard debris and to Don Parker and Dwight Hughes (taking a break) during clean-up day on April 18th.







Ron Lashmit conducted the May Annual Celebration and Reunion service. Mary Barnum and Moira Depasquale played beautiful instrumental music. Barb Richard and Daisy Wingert organized the potluck following the service.





Addyson Duwe and Preston Wiese were married on August 22nd. Her mom Kristi Crist added last minute touch ups.











It was a gorgeous October day for the Pie & Ice Cream Social! Henry and sister Sarah loved eating pie. Daisy Wingert, Barb Rickard, Kayla and Kris Kuehl helped keep the pie table full of every type of pie that was donated. Percheron horses Mike and Mark stepped high as the Hughes (Dwight and Tom) families drove the team to give buggy rides to guests. Joyce Kuhnle and JoAnn Thomson donated delicious pies and enjoyed the beautiful day. They matched the orange decorations perfectly too.





Students from the Industrial Technology class at Tipton High School framed a new, larger utility building on the southwest corner of the cemetery. Students participating were Jackson Timmerman, Brady Woode, Brennan Esbeck, Brody Johnson, and Eli Meredith. The class instructor was Mike Wehde. Mike Herring from the Red Oak Board designed it based on features from Red Oak Grove Church.

In Memoriam: Red Oak Grove Cemetery

Carolyn Penningroth Schaper, born Dec 31, 1937, in Cedar Rapids, passed away on Jan 17, 2019. Her memorial service was on Feb. 9th at the First Congregational Church, in Crystal Lake, IL. Visitation was the evening before at the Davenport Family Funeral Home and Crematory, in Crystal Lake, IL. She is survived by her husband, Arn Schaper; her sons, Jon (Rhonda) Schaper and Steve (Caprice) Schaper and her grandchildren, Max, Raquel, Candace, Vince, Brent, and Kirk Schaper; her siblings Darrel (Janet) Penningroth, Marjorie Stonerook and sister in-law Rosemary Penningroth, all of Tipton, IA. Carolyn's interment was September 14, 2026, at Red Oak Grove Cemetery.

Sandra Willert, 86, Tipton, passed away on January 8, 2026. A visitation that celebrated Sandy's life was at Chapman Funeral Home in Clarence, IA on January 12th. A private family burial was on September 19th in Red Oak Grove Cemetery. Sandy was born on August 11, 1939 to Forest and Esther (Goldsmith) Woode. Survivors include her children Jon "Jake" (Teri) Willert and Kristi (Steve) Stafford and grandchildren Cody, Cory and Cole Stafford, Lindsey Willert, Jenna (Jesse) Chumbley, and Carly Willert plus great grandchildren Kaleb Willert and Maxwell and Mia Heiar; sisters-in-law Marilyn Woode and Julie Willert; and brothers-in-law Robert (Jenny) Willert, and Virgil Hamdorf. She was buried August 29, 2026, at Red Oak Grove Cemetery.

Sherry Swinton, 90, died on January 11, 2026. She was born on May 30, 1936. She lived in Tipton from 1978 through 1989. Sherry's survivors include her husband Jerry of Des Moines, daughter Kit Phelps of Tipton and sons, Tim, Paul (Kelly), and Dave (Shari), and 12 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. Her graveside ceremony was August 29, 2026, at Red Oak Grove Cemetery.

Phyllis Twaina LeDoux-Sapp, 80, Tipton, died on March 11, 2026. She was born on January 14, 1946, to Hank and Imogene (Aldridge) Ward in Oklahoma City, OK. Phyllis's service was at Fry Funeral Home on March 14th. Her remains were interred on August 22, 2026. Survivors include her husband, John Sapp, and her sons: Raymond (Peggy), Terry (Heather), and Gordon (Jessica) LeDoux, and her two daughters Gypsy Harshbarger and Fay (Steve) Kern; also 20 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren; and her brother, Hank Ward (Deb); and sisters, Vicki Golden and Penni Whitney (Dan).

Kenneth Charles Schmidt, 77, Clarence, passed away June 2, 2025, Ken was born on June 18, 1947, to Elmer and Alice (Licht) Schmidt. He married Sherry Odeen at the Red Oak Church on November 18, 1972. Ken's Celebration of Life was at the Clarence Park Pavilion on June 6. His burial was at Red Oak Grove Cemetery on November 1, 2026. Ken is survived by his wife Sherry and children: Matt (Chyan) Schmidt, Mindy Praught (Schmidt), and Mike (Loretta Stewart) Schmidt; and grandchildren Nicole Schmidt, Blake (Morgan) Moser, Bryor Schmidt, Pacino Young, Skyler Schmidt, Jordyn Schmidt, Kennedy Stewart, and Peyton (Austin) Stewart; great grandchildren Cooper Schmidt, Maddex Easley, Kaiden Cook, and Kreighton Cook and his sister Kathy (Ronald) Robinson and many nieces & nephews.

Phyllis V. Lenschow, 89, of Tipton, Iowa, born on June 17, 1936, passed away on August 4, 2025. She is survived by her children: Rochelle Monk (Darrel), Jeff Lenschow (Jody), and Cindy Batzkiel (Bill). Also surviving are her sister Elaine Fleenor, and sister-in-law Cuba Flory plus her grandchildren—Ryan Monk, Eric Monk, Alyssa Monk, Ben Lenschow, Maddie Lenschow—and one great-granddaughter, Finley Tutokey. Visitation was August 7, 2025, at Fry Funeral Home and the funeral service was on August 8, at Fry Funeral Home. A cremation burial took place at Red Oak Cemetery on September 11, 2026.

In Memoriam continued...

David Dean Penningroth, 54, Tipton, passed away on July 3, 2026. Dave was the son of Darrell and Janice Meier Penningroth and was born on October 14, 1971. His children Emma and Caden Penningroth, and his brother Rob (Angie) Penningroth and nephew Austin (Kirsten) and their daughter Adri survive him. David's burial and luncheon was at Red Oak Grove Cemetery on July 11, 2026.

Ginger Anne Ford, 74, of Tipton, Iowa, passed away September 6, 2026. She was born on March 14, 1952, to Robert E. and Darlene B. (Rife) Leaf. Ginger is survived by her son, Christopher Barnes and daughter, Stacey (Randy) Hennings, and three grandchildren, Tyler, Trevor, and Tara Hennings. She is also survived by two brothers, Robert (Colleen) Leaf and Wayne Leaf. Visitation was on September 22, 2026, at Fry Funeral Home in Tipton followed by a private family graveside service and burial at Red Oak Grove Cemetery.

Monetary Donors: Oct 21, 2025 through Oct 20, 2026

Many thanks to all donors who help keep Red Oak Grove a beautiful and extremely well-preserved place. Without your generosity, we could not do it, and you are appreciated! If you sent a gift and your name is not on the list, your gift must have arrived after The Reporter went to print in November, your name will appear on the 2027 list of monetary donors.

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Cody & Kayla Kuehl, Tipton
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In memory of John Henry
H. Mike & Marlo Laing, Riverside
In memory of Veterans with no known descendants
Larry & Deb Laing, Tipton
In memory of John Laing
Mark Laing, Stanwood
In memory of Grandpa & Ma James Lily Laing, and Great Grandpa & Ma Bill & Mary Laing
Rodney & Sharon Laing, Tipton
Ronald Laing, Tipton
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In memory of Marge Stonerook
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Frank & Lorraine Tauber, Iowa City
Karen Taylor, Springville
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In memory of the Yule Family
Bev Tripp, Tipton
In memory of David Tripp
Doug & Wendy Vincent, Tiffin
In memory of Paul Buchmayer
Alice Whitlatch, Tipton
In memory of Bob Whitlatch
Dean & Pam Wilkerson, West Branch
In memory of Mearl & Marvel Woode
Sandy Willert, Tipton
In memory of Jim Willert
Daisy Wingert, Tipton
In memory of Ron Wingert, Max & Mary Schroeder
Tony Woode, Tipton
In memory of Wilbur Wallace Woode
Anne Wurr, Petaluma, CA
Juliet Wurr, Long Beach, CA

In-kind Volunteers, Dec 2025 through Nov 2026

The following individuals gave Red Oak Grove their work, time effort, knowledge and/or expertise; they may have loaned us equipment or supplies or given gifts also. A hearty thanks to ALL!

Katie Abel
Craig Anderson
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Brothers Market
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Rich & Kiaya Urban
Doug & Wendy Vincent
Wanda Whitmer
Daisy Wingert

Mark Your Calendars for These Upcoming Events

- **Wreaths Across America- Saturday, December 19, 2026 at 11:30 am (cookies afterwards)**
- **Spring Clean Up- Saturday, April 17, 2027 at 9 am (all hands welcome, bring a friend)**
- **Annual Celebration/Reunion/Potluck and the 136th ROGcem's Annual Meeting- Sunday, May 16, 2027 at 11 am**
- **Pie and Ice Cream Social- Sunday, October 3, 2027 at 1 pm**
- **Wreaths Across America- Saturday, December 18, 2027 at 11:30 am (cookies afterwards)**

Please note Wreaths Across America (WAA) is December 19th not December 9th as it was incorrectly printed in a letter to friends and contributors of Red Oak Grove Church and Cemetery. The letter was about WAA, progress on the new utility shed, and information about 2027's window restoration project.

For information about purchase of plots, church rental, the wedding venue, or other matters pertaining to the church or cemetery please reach out via email. For wedding venue information and booking, email Mike Herring at woodland@netins.net

E-mail: redoakgrovecc@gmail.com
Mail: P.O. Box 401, Tipton, IA 52772

Visit out website **www.redoakgrovecc.org** • Find us on Facebook: **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.