



Working to elect Democrats from the courthouse to the White House

Monthly  
Newsletter



Dubuque, Iowa 2025

## WE DID NOT SERVE ALONE

By Tom Townsend, Iowa State Senator



I hear a lot of people talking these days about patriotism. What does it mean to be a patriot? What does it mean to love and serve your country? For me, part of my story of patriotism and service includes the six years I spent in the United States Navy.

### But I did not serve alone.

My wife and children served alongside me. This is the story of how we became a family of veterans.

I grew up on a small farm in a very small town. Diversity wasn't something I experienced growing up. When I joined the US Navy after high school, Boot Camp was an eye-opening experience for me, meeting folks from all over the country.

This is where I first learned the truth that has carried me through my career: **it doesn't matter what color your skin is, what your political or religious beliefs are.** The only thing that really matters is if you and the people alongside you know how to do the job and take care of each other.

I completed Boot Camp at the Great Lakes base in North Chicago, and on the weekend of my graduation, my wife, Judee, and I got married, officially making us a family.

After completing Boot Camp, I started in the Navy Nuclear Power Program, and Judee and I got to stay at Great Lakes while I attended Basic Electricity and Electronics and Electricians 'A' School. It was during this time that our daughter Carrie was born, making us a family of three.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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There's always something happening in Dubuque County. Whether you're ready to volunteer, meet candidates, or connect with neighbors, we'd love to see you.

WHEN	WHAT
July 4	Cascade 4th of July Parade Candidate March
July 5	Door-knocking event
July 5	Mary Ungs-Sogaarrd Campaign Kick-off
July 10	Epworth Fireman's Picnic
July 11	Door-knocking
July 12	Liberty & Justice Celebration
July 14	Central Committee Meeting
July 15	Epworth Market
July 15	Courthouse Candidates Meet & Greet (Dyersville)
July 19	IDP Regional Hall of Fame Nominations Deadline
July 23	Courthouse Candidates Meet & Greet (Balltown)
July 29	Courthouse Candidates Meet & Greet (Peosta)



See the full calendar of events at [dbqdems.org/events](https://dbqdems.org/events) or scan the QR code.

## VISIT OUR NEW HEADQUARTERS

**YES! WE'RE  
OPEN**

Stop by to meet volunteers, pick up campaign materials, learn about upcoming events, or find out how you can get involved. We'd love to welcome you!

**Our Address: 123 Main St., DBQ (formerly Esther's Lounge)**

## MEET YOUR DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES

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Every race matters. From county offices to Congress, the candidates below are working to serve their communities and build a stronger future for Dubuque County, Iowa, and our country.

### DUBUQUE COUNTY CANDIDATES

#### **Kristin Dietzel and Rick Dickinson: County Supervisors**

*Serves on the main governing body of the county to set local policy, manage the county budget, and oversee infrastructure like county roads and zoning.*



There are two County Supervisor seats on the ballot. **You may vote for two** – and Democrats should **mark both Kristin Dietzel and Rick Dickinson.**



#### **Steve Drahozal: County Attorney**

*Acts as the chief prosecutor for the county, handling felony and misdemeanor criminal cases while serving as the legal advisor to all county officials and departments.*



#### **Ann Sweeney: County Recorder**

*Maintains and preserves all official real estate and land transaction records, while also issuing local licenses for marriage, hunting, fishing, and recreational vehicles.*

Learn more about every Democratic candidate at [dbqdems.org/candidates](https://dbqdems.org/candidates).



## IOWA STATE CANDIDATES

**Rob Sand: Governor**

*Chief executive managing the state's executive branch, enforcing laws, and signing or vetoing legislation.*

**Dave Muhlbauer: Lt. Governor**

*Second-in-command and first in line of succession, handling duties assigned by the Governor and inspecting state facilities.*

**Nate Willems: Attorney General**

*Acts as the chief legal officer for the state, representing government agencies in court and enforcing consumer protection and public safety laws.*

**Taylor Wettach: State Auditor**

*Inspects and audits the financial records of state and local government agencies to ensure taxpayer funds are used legally and efficiently.*

**Chris Jones: Secretary of Agriculture**

*Oversees state agricultural policies, regulates food safety and weights/measures, and promotes the state's farming and agribusiness economy.*

**Ryan Peterman: Secretary of State**

*Serves as the state's chief election official, administering voting systems and regulating business filings and corporate registrations.*

**John Norwood: State Treasurer**

*Acts as the state's chief financial officer, managing public investments, receiving state revenues, and overseeing programs like unclaimed property.*

Learn more about every Democratic candidate at [dbqdems.org/candidates](https://dbqdems.org/candidates).



## STATE LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES



### IOWA SENATE

#### **Mary Unga-Sogaard: District 33**

*Represents constituents in the upper chamber of the Iowa General Assembly by drafting and passing state laws and approving the state budget. This body also holds the exclusive power to confirm the governor's appointments to various state departments and boards.*

### IOWA HOUSE

*Represents a specific local district in the lower chamber of the Iowa General Assembly to draft, debate, and pass state laws and allocate public funds. This chamber works alongside the Senate to shape public policy and is traditionally responsible for initiating legislation related to state revenues and taxation.*



#### **Brian Bruening**

District 64



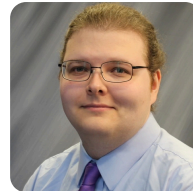
#### **Carolyn Wiezorek**

District 65



#### **Matt English**

District 66



#### **Michael Coonrad**

District 67



#### **Sam Wooden**

District 71



#### **Matt Robinson**

District 72

Learn more about every Democratic candidate at [dbqdems.org/candidates](https://dbqdems.org/candidates).



## FEDERAL CANDIDATES

From Washington to Dubuque, federal decisions affect our daily lives - from protecting Social Security and Medicare to investing in roads, bridges, veterans' services, and rural communities. These candidates are running to represent Iowa values and deliver results for our communities.



### Lindsay James

#### U.S House IA-02

A state representative, ordained chaplain, and mother of two, Lindsay James is running to bring practical, compassionate leadership to Congress. Her campaign focuses on lowering costs, strengthening public schools, supporting Iowa farmers, expanding health care access, and protecting clean water.



### Josh Turek

#### U.S. Senate

A state representative, two-time Paralympic gold medalist, and lifelong Iowan, Josh Turek is running for U.S. Senate to fight for working families. His campaign focuses on strengthening the middle class, protecting public education, improving health care access, and supporting rural communities.

Learn more about every Democratic candidate at [dbqdems.org/candidates](https://dbqdems.org/candidates).



## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

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### BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF GREATER DUBUQUE



The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Dubuque provides a safe, welcoming place where young people can learn, build confidence, and develop skills for the future. Through programs focused on academics, leadership, health, recreation, and the arts, the Club helps local youth reach their full potential while supporting working families throughout our community.

Their commitment to creating an inclusive environment where every young person feels welcome reflects the kind of community we all benefit from - one where every child has the opportunity to thrive.

### WHY WE'RE FEATURING THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

Politics isn't just about elections - it's about building a community where every child has the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed. That's why each issue we highlight a local organization making a positive difference in Dubuque County.

*Community Spotlight organizations are featured because of their positive impact on Dubuque County. They are not sponsored by or affiliated with the Dubuque County Democratic Party.*

## THIS TIME IN DUBUQUE

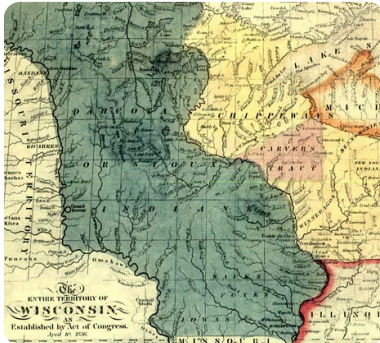
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Every month, we look back at moments that helped shape Dubuque and Iowa. From milestones that built our community to individuals who expanded opportunity and justice, these stories remind us where we've been and inspire where we're going.



**July 28, 1837**

Pope Gregory XVI **established the Diocese of Dubuque** in response to westward migration, appointing Mathias Loras as its first bishop. Loras recruited heavily from Europe and the East Coast, sparking a massive influx of Irish and German immigrants. These settlers built the city's infrastructure and lead mines, permanently defining Dubuque's cultural and political identity.



**July 4, 1838**

On Independence Day, the **Iowa Territory was officially established** from the Wisconsin Territory, spanning from the Mississippi River to the Canadian border. This milestone formalized the region's democratic institutions and set the stage for statehood, with Dubuque serving as a vital economic anchor for the new territory.



**July 7, 1948**

Edna Griffin, known as "Iowa's Rosa Parks," led a **sit-in at Katz Drug Store** in Des Moines after being refused service because she was Black. Her subsequent boycotts and successful civil suit under Iowa's 1884 Civil Rights Act effectively ended segregated public accommodations in the city, years before the national civil rights movement gained momentum.

## **WE DID NOT SERVE ALONE, CONT.**

*By Tom Townsend, Iowa State Senator*

I was transferred to Orlando, Florida, for Nuclear Power School, with Judee and the baby coming along. Nuclear Power classes were very demanding, and many of my classmates did not complete the schooling.

Following Nuclear Power School, the three of us were shipped up to Prototype, Idaho, where I was taught how to operate electric and nuclear power plants.

Now fully trained, I was stationed on a submarine off the coast of Scotland. While I was on land, I would join Judee and Carrie at our residence in Charleston, South Carolina. When deployed, my unit and I would be flown to Scotland for 105 days, where we would board our submarine and be underwater for over 75 days. We would then be flown back to South Carolina for 90 days of training, before being deployed all over again.

It was during my first deployment that we became a family of four. My son Matt was born while I was underwater; **I learned of Matt's birth via a teletape message given to me onboard our submarine.**

All I knew about Matt was his weight and length at birth. It would be several months before I would get to hold Matt for the first time. This meant that my wife, Judee, had to spend 2 months post-partum with a newborn and toddler all on her own.

After two patrols, our submarine was brought back to South Carolina, where we assisted in the preparations for decommissioning—that's right; the sub I was working on under the crushing weight of the ocean was very old. After combining crews and spending a few months doing weekly operations, we took the submarine on its final patrol through the Panama Canal, crossed the Equator, and ended in the Puget Sound Shipyard for its final decommissioning.

When I got off the submarine in Washington state, Judee and the kids were there waiting for me. Judee had driven across the country with two small children in tow, again, all on her own.

I was then transferred to another submarine, this time out of San Diego, California. Once again, Judee, Carrie, and Matt came along with me. San Diego was the last place I was stationed until being honorably discharged in 1992.

## **WE DID NOT SERVE ALONE, CONT.**

*By Tom Townsend, Iowa State Senator*

I don't view my service as heroic. Although accidents happen and submarines are inherently dangerous environments, I was never in combat. I have great respect for the men and women who put their lives on the line in defense of our country. During my service, I met so many wonderful people from diverse backgrounds who loved their country.

Countless people have fought for the rights that we have today. **Every generation has had to fight for the core rights that we often take for granted.** That service is not limited to those who served in uniform.

I believe that family members, like Judee, Carrie, and Matt, deserve to be treated as veterans. Over six years, we lived in six different cities, with my wife and children navigating life, often while I was underwater on a submarine. My service would not have been possible without their sacrifices.

It's always amazed me how much our founding fathers got right 250 years ago. The principles of fair and free elections are the base of our democracy. The Constitution is bigger than a political party or any politician, including the President. You can't wrap yourself in the document and not pay attention to what it says.

**The main thing I take away from being a veteran is that we must try to stand by the very democracy we were trained to defend.**

## HOW WILL YOU HELP THIS MONTH?

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Elections are won by neighbors showing up - one door, one conversation, one invitation at a time. You don't need to join a committee to make a difference. Start with one simple action.

### THIS MONTH, YOU CAN:

**Knock doors.**

Join a canvass and help voters hear directly from local Democrats.

**Bring a friend.**

Invite someone to an event, parade, meeting, or volunteer shift. The more, the merrier!

**Donate if you can.**

Even a small monthly gift helps print materials, contact voters, and support candidates.

**Share this newsletter.**

Pass this along to someone who wants to get more involved.

**Sign up for updates.**

Stay connected for events, candidate updates, and volunteer opportunities.

## READY TO GET INVOLVED?

Visit [dbqdems.org/get-involved](https://dbqdems.org/get-involved) or scan the QR code.

