

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Senator Risk  
Donald Alexander - Represented Buchanan and Delaware Counties, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 22 Jan 1896 Haystack County Iowa

2. Marriage (s) date place  
① Lydell H. Biedermann 10 Aug 1926 Gruttenberg, Iowa  
② Ruth Navibanks Grubbs 15 Oct 1965

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business He was secretary-treasurer of the Independent Federal Savings and Loan Association; farm manager for Equitable of Iowa

B. Civic responsibilities American Legion; Lions Club

C. Profession Savings and Loan business; farm manager; real estate and insurance business; motel owner and operator

4. Church membership Methodist

5. Sessions served 53<sup>rd</sup> 54<sup>th</sup> 55<sup>th</sup> 56<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies 1949, 1951, 1953,

6. Public Offices 1955

A. Local Buchanan County treasurer for 3 terms; mayor of Independence, Iowa for 6 years

B. State

C. National

7. Death 6 June 1985 Independence, Iowa; buried Oakwood Cemetery, Independence, Iowa

8. Children Donald Lewis; Malcolm G.

9. Names of parents George and Blanche (Jenks) Risk

RISK, Donald Alexander

10. Education He graduated from Aurora High School

11. Degrees He attended Upper Iowa University, Fayette, Iowa

12. Other applicable information Republican

- Military service - World War II - U. S. Navy
- His first wife, Lydia, died 21 Feb 1959
- He also owned and operated Rush Park Motel at Independence, Iowa
- From 1914-1916 he was a Bookkeeper at The Aurora Savings Bank, Aurora, Iowa
- In 1916-1917 he was employed by Universal Tractor Company, Melrose, Illinois



# OBITUARIES



**Don A. Risk**

Don Alexander Risk, 89, longtime Independence businessman, died June 6, at People's Nursing Care Center. Funeral services were held June 10, 1:30 p.m., at the First Presbyterian Church. The Rev. B.J. Ukena officiated. Music was by Mrs. Monte Cue.

Burial was in Oakwood Cemetery with Robert Ohl, Frank Craig, Bob Malek Sr., John W. Pappas, William G. Klotzbach and Edwin Holst as casket bearers.

A military memorial service was held June 9, at the White Funeral Home, by Sheehan-Tidball American Legion Post No. 30 and Bechter-Boise VFW Post No. 2440.

Risk was born Jan. 22, 1896, on a farm in Fayette County, the son of George and Blanche Jenks Risk. He received his education in the Aurora schools, and Upper Iowa University, Fayette.

He served in the Navy during World War II. He was united in marriage to Lydia W. Biedermann on Aug. 10, 1926, at Guttenberg, and she died July 21, 1959. He was then married to Ruth Fairbanks Grubbs on Oct. 15, 1965.

Risk served three terms as Buchanan County treasurer, six years as mayor of In-

dependence, and eight years as Iowa State Senator. He was farm manager for Equitable of Iowa for 11 years, and was the head of Independence Federal Savings and Loan for 26 years.

While he was in high school, Risk sold motorcycles and did posting for the Aurora Savings Bank after school.

He was a member of Sheehan-Tidball American Legion Post No. 30 and the Independence Lions Club.

Survivors include his wife, Ruth; two sons, Donald L. Risk, Phoenix, Ariz., and Malcolm Risk, Independence; seven grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; one sister, Thelma Shoemaker, Evanston, Ill.; one step daughter, Patricia Rand, Balboa, Panama; and three step grandchildren.

Besides his first wife, Lydia, he was preceded in death by his parents and four sisters.

The White Funeral Home in Independence was in charge of arrangements.

## Dorothy Mae Frasher

Dorothy Mae Frasher, 72, died June 7, at her home in Independence. Funeral services were held June 10, 11 a.m., at the Troy Mills Christian Church, with the Rev. Tim Johnson officiating.

Burial was in the Troy Mills Cemetery with Larry Roman, Jack Streif, Jeff Frasher, Carroll Takes, Leo Takes and E.J. Fenner as casket bearers. Honorary casket bearers were Ralph Akers, Harlan Cook, Carl Walton and Virgil Chester.

Frasher was born May 25, 1913, in Buchanan County, the daughter of John and Alice Firth Neidy. They lived near Winthrop, where she attended the local schools.

She was united in marriage to Henry Frasher on Sept. 19, 1934, at Galena, Ill. They farmed in the Winthrop and Troy Mills area, living on a

farm northeast of Troy Mills for 38 years. In 1976, they moved to their present home in Independence.

Frasher was a member of the Troy Mills Christian Church, where she was a former deaconess and Sunday School teacher. She was the president of the York Center Senior Citizens Potluck Group in Independence, and an active member of the United Methodist Woman at Independence.

Survivors include her husband, Henry; two sons, Glenn Walker, and Harold, Center Point; one daughter, Lois Waller, Marion; six grandchildren, Gary and Russell Waller, Terri Kay, Michael and Jane Ann Frasher, and Aimee Frasher; two brothers, Dale and George Neidy, Independence; and one sister, Marian Fenner, Bella Vista, Ark.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one brother, Ralph Neidy; one sister, Edna Hearn; and one granddaughter, April Kay Frasher.

The Fawcett Funeral Home in Winthrop was in charge of arrangements.

## Helen Graves

Helen N. (Holder) Graves, 66, Mesa, Ariz., died May 15 at Scottsdale Memorial Hospital.

A memorial service was held at the Scottsdale Mortuary in Scottsdale, Ariz., on May 18.

Graves was born Oct. 29, 1918, in Doris. She married James Graves on Feb. 10, 1939.

Survivors include her husband, James N. Graves, Mesa, Ariz.; one son, Michael, AFB, West Germany; one daughter, Mrs. Joe (Robin) Nisley, Phoenix, Ariz.; a brother, Henry M. Holder, McAllen, Texas; and one sister, Mrs. Philip DeGreif, Quasqueton.

ary Smith (left) of the Hudson Police N magazine. The ce office May 30. ssistance they pro- ow of the Hud-

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This house is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Gladys was born August 19, 1932 near Masonville, Iowa. Her parents were William and Edna (Crow) Martin. Gladys attended Aurora Public School through eighth grade and graduated from Maynard Consolidated School in 1950. She attended Upper Iowa University, Fayette for two years and received an elementary teaching certificate. Her first year of experience was at Fayette Consolidated School teaching third grade. From 1953-1966, Gladys was home raising their family: George born August 26, 1954, Debra born December 22, 1956, Wanda born August 14, 1959, and Rita born January 10, 1963. They all graduated from East Buchanan Schools, Winthrop. George graduated from Area I, Calmar with an Associate Degree in Agriculture. He rents the home farm and raises beef cattle. Debra graduated from Upper Iowa University, Fayette and University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls. She teaches pre-school handicapped children and is a consultant for Arrowhead AEA, Fort Dodge. Debra and Mike Shelton and Mitchell live on an acreage near Duncombe, Iowa. Mike works as a Farm Research Assistant. Wanda and Dan Haverkamp, Amy and Sara live on a farm near Independence. Wanda is attending Allen Hospital College of Nursing, Waterloo where she will graduate in 1991. Dan farms and works for Geater Machine Company, Independence. Rita and Eric Freese live in Dayton, Ohio. She is an administrative secretary and Eric, a programmer/analyst both at RJO Enterprises. They graduated from the University of Dubuque. Gladys graduated from Upper Iowa University, Fayette in 1970, teaches remedial reading at East Buchanan Schools, has been president of Eastern Iowa Reading Council and secretary of the Richardson-Jakway Memorial Foundation.

Submitted by Gladys Richardson.

### John and Velma (Crow) Richardson

John Joseph Richardson was born March 9, 1921, Aurora, Iowa, son of George Washington and Nellie (Sherren) Richardson, deceased and buried at Madison Cemetery with two daughters. Jane died at 3 years and Kate at 13 years. One brother, Judson Abiathar lives across road from Historic Richardson Stagecoach Inn. John resides near Jakway Park on a farm that his Great Grandfather Abiathar Richardson bought from the Government for \$1.25 per acre.



John and Velma Richardson

Farming has been his occupation aside from serving in World War II. During a furlough with days too few for blood test and a marriage in Iowa, his fiancée, Velma Marie Crow and John eloped to Hannibal, Missouri. Traveled by bus as gas and tires rationed, arriving at Hannibal, found no courthouse to purchase license, hitchhiked back eleven miles to Palmyra, riding one way in a cattle truck, phoned from dime store-Methodist Minister out of town, located Baptist Minister, lost walking to church, finally, married 8:00 P.M. Oct. 7, 1943, Velma's 19th birthday!

Four days later back to service for John and overseas to New Guinea and the Philippines. Velma clerked in a grocery store in Illinois and worked as Volunteer Red Cross Nurse Aid at Hospital until John was honorably discharged 3 years later, Jan. 1946. Four children were born.

Judy Ann, Nov. 22, 1946, married Leslie Becker Dec. 30, 1968, two children; Michelle Louise, May 6, 1971 and Michael Lee Nov. 7, 1972. Judy teaches college. Leslie 20 years Navy; now employed Florida State College, residence-Lawtey, Florida.

Josephine Kay, June 26, 1949, married Stanley Schipper Aug. 15, 1969, two children; Scott William, Jan. 30, 1974 and Steven John, Nov. 26, 1976. Jo is a legal secretary. Stanley sales manager and accounting R.E.C., residence-Parkersburg, Iowa.

Jane Marie, July 6, 1952, married Charles Watson Jan. 29, 1972. Two children; Wendy Sue, July 29, 1972 and Kathleen Marie, Jan. 29, 1976. Jane school teacher. Charles self employed carpentry and farming. Residence Hazleton, Iowa.

Jean Arda, Oct. 14, 1957, married Frederic Hilker April 4, 1981. Jean and Frederic have two children Jordan Andrew, March 11, 1986 and Lukas Aaron, March 27, 1988. Frederic also has Jessica Dawn Jan. 19, 1973 and Daniel Todd Nov. 5, 1975. Jean secretary, piano teacher, homemaker. Frederic, photography, residence Spokane, Washington.

Velma born Winthrop, Iowa Oct. 7, 1924 daughter of Fred and Mary (Ferrin) Crow. Has been girl scout leader, Sunday school teacher, U.M.W. president and served various capacities United Methodist Church, member Independence Chapter Women's Aglow holding offices there. Hobbies are gardening, canning, cooking, making monkey sock dolls to give to children, sewing quilts, photography and compiling books for ten grandchildren. Her favorite hobby is reading.

John belongs to American Legion and holds various offices in United Methodist Church and is Treasurer of Aurora Community Christian Council.

John and Velma are interested in preserving old traditions for the youth so assist at Aurora 4th of July and Septemberfest held at Jakway Park. Enjoy traveling to places they have read about. Through the years many relatives and friends have vacationed at their country home.

Submitted by Velma Richardson

### The Risks

Alexander Risk was born in Wigtonshire, Scotland on January 22, 1827. He immigrated to the United States with his mother, Elizabeth and stepfather, Thomas Calvin, in 1852, settling in Newton Township in 1854. He had a half sister, Margaret Calvin McKee, and two half brothers, Samuel and John. Samuel became a noted Iowa geologist, and John was a three-term Iowa legislator.

Alexander married Ellen Moore February 29, 1860 in Quasqueton. To them were born a son, Thomas in 1861 and a daughter Maria on January 10, 1864. Thomas and his mother died in November 1864. Maria later married Henry Griswold, who served five terms as state representative and state senator.

On October 16, 1865, Alexander married Alma Wood in Waverly. His marriage to Nancy Hamilton Cornick on September 1, 1884 was followed by the birth of one daughter, Nellie (1871-1955), and three sons; George (1873-1934), Loren (1875-1957), and Howard (1880-1948). They joined a half-brother Ross and half-sister, Carrie. Carrie would later be married to Henry Kendall, and Nellie to Edward Wimmer. Loren became an attorney in Minneapolis; Howard was a doctor in Oelwein; and George engages in real estate in Buchanan and Fayette Counties. Alexander Risk engaged in various business pursuits during his lifetime; primarily, in farming in Fayette county and grain elevators in Winthrop and Waverly. He also owned considerable property in Winthrop and rural Fayette County. He died on June 10, 1895.

George Risk married Blanche Jenks, the daughter of Earl and Marietta Fuller Jenks in Aurora in 1892. Their children included Gertrude (1900-1901) Mildred (1898-1981) Margaret (1911-1968) Twins Nelmah (1903-1969) and Thelma; and Don (1896-1985). Mildred married Wayland Allen of Arlington who was engaged in school book sales in Illinois. Nelmah was married to Leslie Schroeder in Minneapolis. He was an attorney who was a long-time Minnesota Aeronautics commissioner. Thelma was married to Paul Shoemaker of Cedar Falls. He was an executive in the hardboard industry, working for U.S. Gypsum, Georgia Pacific and Masonite. She resides in Evanston, Illinois.

Don Risk married Lydia Biedermann of Guttenburg August 10, 1926. Their children are Donald born October 20, 1927, and Malcolm, born November 6, 1937. Don was engaged in farm management for Equitable of Iowa and managed the Independence Federal Savings and Loan. He served in various elective offices, including Buchanan County Treasurer, Mayor of Independence, and two terms as state senator. Donald married Katherine Klotzbach of Independence June 26, 1949, and is engaged in insurance in Arizona. They have three children: William, born June 7, 1951; John, born May 5, 1954; and Janet, born April 18, 1961. William and Janet both reside in Arizona. John and his wife, Diana, reside in Independence with their three children: Alexander, June 20, 1981, Louis, July 18, 1983 and Joseph February 23, 1990.

Malcolm married Ella Ball of Nevada, Iowa on December 31, 1965. They have four children: Scott, born October 22, 1970; Shannon, born May 23, 1972; and twins Suzanne and Steven, born November 1, 1975. All reside in Independence.

### Donald Louis and Katharine Janet (Klotzbach) Risk

Donald Louis Risk was born in Independence, Iowa on October 20, 1927. He was the son of Don Alexander and Lydia Biedermann Risk. Donald has one brother Malcolm G. of Independence, Iowa.



Donald Risk Family - Louis, Alexander, Diane, John, Donald Risk, Janet Risk Ellis, Dan Ellis, Katharine Risk Heather and Bill Risk

# Individual Record

FamilySearch™ U.S. Social Security Death Index

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 **Don RISK**

**Birth Date:** 22 Jan 1896  
**Death Date:** Jun 1985  
**Social Security Number:** 482-05-2862  
**State or Territory Where Number Was Issued:** Iowa

**Death Residence Localities**

**ZIP Code:** 50644  
**Localities:** Doris, Buchanan, Iowa  
 Independence, Buchanan, Iowa  
 Otterville, Buchanan, Iowa

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