

Jack Hester was born in Modale, Iowa, and graduated from Persia High School in 1947. He served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. He and Joan were married for forty-six years. They became the first husband-and-wife team to serve in the Iowa Legislature when Joan was elected to the House in 1984. Mr. Hester was active in many community activities and organizations. He was a township trustee and a member of the Extension Council and Westfair Board, the Neola Community Choir, and the Pottawattamie County Pork Producers. He was also a member of American Legion Post No. 337, the Loess Hills Eagles Model Aircraft Club, the Hazel Dell United Methodist Church, and the Husker Chapter of the Studebaker Drivers Club. In his retirement, he spent his time traveling, and he spent many hours building and flying radio-controlled airplanes.

Jack Hester farmed for thirty years, and he was a 4H leader and a past president of the West Pottawattamie Farm Bureau. His family was named the 1975 Farmers Home Administration Farm Family of the Year for Cass and Pottawattamie counties.

Senator Hester was a Pottawattamie County Republican and was elected to the Iowa Senate in 1978. He served from 1979 to 1994, during the 68th through the 75th General Assemblies. He was ranking member of the Senate Natural Resources Committee and the ranking Republican on the Ways and Means Committee. Fellow lawmakers spoke many kind words about Senator Hester. Some were that he was a quiet man on the floor but always worked hard behind the scene, and that he was a gentleman and a good legislator and everyone liked him.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE SEVENTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF IOWA: That in the passing of the Honorable Jack W. Hester, the State has lost an honored citizen and a faithful and useful public servant, and that the Senate by this resolution expresses its appreciation of his service to the State and tenders its sympathy and kindest regards to the members of his family.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the Journal of the Senate and that the Secretary of the Senate be instructed to forward an enrolled copy to the family of the deceased.

NANCY BOETTGER, Chair
MICHAEL GRONSTAL
DERRYL McLAREN

Committee

ERNEST KOSEK

Ernest Kosek was born in Cedar Rapids on March 13, 1907, in the Kosek Bakery on 16th Avenue, now know as Sykora's Bakery. He passed away on August 31, 1999, at the age of ninety-two years. In 1934, he married Vlasta Victoria Vondracek in the Coe College Chapel. He is survived by his son, Ernest G. Kosek, and wife, Susan, of Cedar Rapids; a daughter, Karen V. Nelson of Minneapolis; a sister, Rose Prastka; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Ernest graduated from old Washington High School located in downtown Cedar Rapids and then went on to study at Coe College. He transferred to the University of Iowa, where in 1931 he graduated with an electrical engineering degree and a minor in

money and banking. He received a commission in the Army Engineers and was accepted for training as an Army Air Corps cadet. In 1932, Ernest left the Army Air Corps and worked as an investment banker starting his own investment banking business, which he successfully ran for forty years. He served on the Board of Governors of the National Association of Securities Dealers. Ernest served in the Navy during World War II as a Lt. Senior Grade. He was stationed in New York City, where he helped set up some of the first discharge centers.

Ernest Kosek was a Linn County Republican, and in 1946 he was elected to the House of Representatives and served twelve years during the 52nd through the 57th General Assemblies until 1958. In 1966, he was elected to the Senate and served for four years during the 62nd and 63rd General Assemblies until 1970. While in the Legislature, he championed many mental health bills helping those affected by mental illness. He also served on the executive committee of the National Association of Mental Health.

Senator Kosek was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, the El Kahir Shrine, the Odd Fellows, the Elks, the American Legion, and he was a 32nd degree Mason. He was a member of the Cedar Rapids Country Club, the Sokol, the Iowa Republican Party, the Czech Heritage Society, the Czech Village Association, and Western Fraternal. Senator Kosek and United States Senator Hruska started the first English-speaking lodges in the Western Fraternal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE SEVENTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF IOWA: That in the passing of the Honorable Ernest Kosek, the State has lost an honored citizen and a faithful and useful public servant, and the Senate by this resolution expresses its appreciation of his service to the State and tenders its sympathy and kindest regards to the members of his family.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the Journal of the Senate and that the Secretary of the Senate be instructed to forward an enrolled copy to the family of the deceased.

MARY A. LUNDBY, Chair
WALLY E. HORN
ANDY MCKEAN

Committee

HAROLD A. THORSDEN

Harold A. Thorsden was born on September 25, 1907, in Davenport, Iowa, to Jess and Hazel Thorsden. He passed away on November 8, 1999, in Davenport, Iowa, at the age of ninety-two. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn; sons and daughters-in-law, the Reverend Jerry and Vicki Thorsden of Bondurant, Iowa, Jim and Marsha McKinney of Eldridge, Iowa, and Lt. Col. Joseph and Ann Arnold of Price George, Virginia; a daughter, Pat Simms of Madison, Wisconsin; daughters and sons-in-law, Nadine and Charles Palmer of Peoria, Illinois, and Nancy and Ronald Pike of Waynesboro, Pennsylvania.; 24 grandchildren; 46 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren; sisters Marsha Bogue of Tucson, Arizona, and Honey Weber of Davenport; plus several nieces and nephews.