
THE IOWA AWARD

The Iowa Award represents the state's highest citizen award. The Iowa Centennial Memorial Foundation, established in 1948 by Governor Robert D. Blue and the Iowa Legislature, created the award. The foundation wished "to encourage and recognize the outstanding service of Iowans in the fields of science, medicine, law, religion, social welfare, education, agriculture, industry, government, and other public service" and to recognize the "merit of their accomplishments in Iowa and throughout the United States."

The foundation bestows the Iowa Award approximately every five years and finances the event with money from the foundation's trust fund. By giving "awards, medals, or any other proper means of recognition," the foundation and the State of Iowa applaud the "outstanding ability, service and achievement by Iowans," and takes pride in sharing the outstanding benefits of their accomplishments.

Iowa Award Recipients

- 1951** President Herbert Hoover (engineer, humanitarian, author, and U.S. President)
- 1955** Jay N. Darling (cartoonist, conservationist, Pulitzer Prize winner)
- 1961** Dr. Frank Spedding (educator, chemist, worked on the first atomic bomb)
- 1961** Dr. James Van Allen (educator, physicist, rocket & space exploration)
- 1966** Henry A. Wallace (U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Vice President of United States)
- 1970** Mamie Eisenhower (First Lady, wife of President Dwight D. Eisenhower)
- 1975** Dr. Karl King (composer, bandmaster)
- 1978** Dr. Norman Borlaug (crop geneticist, worked to end world hunger, Nobel Peace Prize winner)
- 1980** Monsignor Luigi Liguitti (director-National Catholic Rural Life Conference)
- 1984** George Gallup (founder of the Gallup Poll)
- 1988** Meredith Willson (composer, musician)
- 1992** Carrie Lane Chapman Catt (leader in suffrage movement and for world peace)

It is the foundation's obligation to preserve the original funds received from the sale of commemorative half dollars sold in 1946-1947, as a perpetual charitable trust fund. Seventy-five percent of the interest earned on the trust fund is expended. In addition to presenting the Iowa Award, the foundation finances scholarships. The foundation grants scholarships annually to Iowa high school seniors and college students attending a post-secondary school in Iowa. Interested students should contact the Office of the Treasurer for more information. One thousand commemorative half dollars were retained by the foundation. Five hundred will be sold to provide funding for the state's sesquicentennial celebration and 500 will be sold to provide funding for the state's bicentennial celebration.

The foundation is comprised of the governor, treasurer, attorney general, president of the Board of Regents, former governors who have remained residents, and citizen trustees. Current citizen trustees are Murray Goodman, Mary Louise Smith, and George Mills of Des Moines; and Margaret Keyes of Iowa City.