

*Pieces of Iowa's Past*, published by the Iowa State Capitol Tour Guides weekly during the Legislative Session, features historical facts about Iowa, the Capitol, and the early workings of state government. All italicized text/block quotes in this document are taken directly from historical publications with the actual spelling, punctuation, and grammar retained.

## Examining the Nines: Reapportionment and Sister States

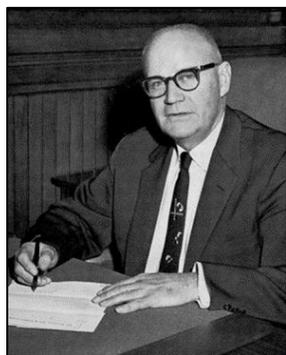
This year begins the 89th Iowa General Assembly. Some of this year's *Pieces of Iowa's Past* articles will briefly examine the work of the 9th, 19th, 29th, 39th, 49th, 59th, 69th, and 79th General Assemblies, or observe interesting events that happened during those years.

The 59th General Assembly convened January 9th and adjourned May 6, 1961, a 118-day session.

Lieutenant Governor [W.L. Mooty](#) presided over the Senate and [Henry Nelson](#) was Speaker of the House.



**Governor Norman Erbe**



**Speaker of the  
House  
Henry Nelson**

The number of resolutions and bills introduced was 1,337, of which the General Assembly passed 357. Governor Norman Erbe vetoed seven.

Among other actions of major interest, the Legislature:

- Established the Iowa-Nebraska boundary at the center of the main channel of the Missouri River, except that the town of Carter Lake would remain in Iowa. The Nebraska legislature refused to accept this decision.



**Governor  
W.L. Mooty**

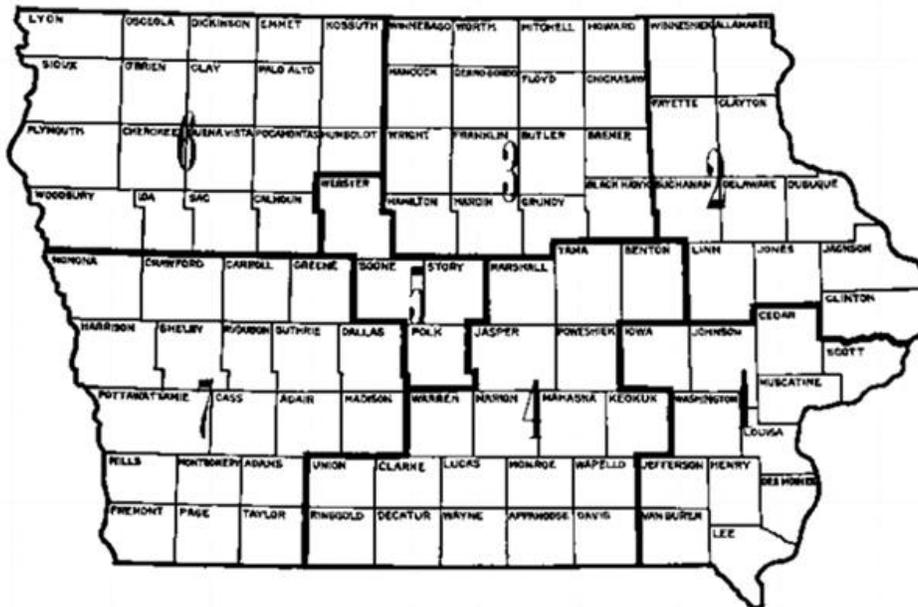
- Made the oak Iowa's official state tree, designated by a resolution on March 13, 1961.
- Increased the marriage age from 14 to 16 years for girls and from 16 to 18 for boys.

## Reapportionment

[Senate File 480](#) repealed 1958 Iowa Code, section 40.1, eliminating Iowa's eighth congressional district.

Reapportionment or redistricting is the process by which new congressional and state legislative district boundaries are drawn. District lines are redrawn every 10 years following completion of the United States census.

The 1960 census population of Iowa was 2,757,537, an increase of 5.2%, with Iowa's population then being 53% urban. The 1960 census also revealed that Iowa's representation in the House would have to be reduced by one. The seven representatives from Iowa who would have been elected to the Eighty-eighth Congress in 1962 were elected from seven congressional districts, which were established by Senate File 480 of the 59th General Assembly.



Redistricting May 3, 1961. Iowa population 2,757,537.

Source: [Iowa Official Register 1961-1962](#)

The problem was to divide the state into seven districts of nearly equal population and, from a political standpoint, to let the loss of one congressman fall on the minority party. A dozen plans were drawn, and each house passed its own bill. A conference committee report was then adopted.

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

**ON SENATE FILE 480**

**TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE:**

We, the undersigned members of the conference committee appointed to consider the differences between the Senate and House on Senate File 480, an Act to repeal section forty point one (40.1), Code 1958, and to enact a substitute therefor, redistricting the state into seven (7) congressional districts, beg leave to report and make the following recommendations:

1. That the House of Representatives recede from its amendment as passed to Senate File 480.

2. That Senate File 480, section 1, as passed by the Senate, be amended as follows:

a). By striking "Webster," in line 14; by striking "and Marshall" in line 15; and by striking the comma before "Black Hawk" in line 15 and inserting the word "and" in lieu thereof.

b). By striking the word "Greene" in line 20 and by striking ", Dallas" in line 21.

c). By adding "Marshall," after the words "counties of" in line 16.

d). By adding the word "Webster" after the words "counties of" in line 20.

e). By adding "Greene," in line 27 after "Carroll," and by adding "Dallas," in line 27 after "Guthrie,".

CLIFFORD M. VANCE, *Chairman.*

J. LOUIS FISHER.

J. KENDALL LYNES.

*On the Part of the Senate.*

MARVIN W. SMITH, *Chairman.*

ROBERT W. NADEN.

DEWEY E. GOODE.

*On the Part of the House.*

Today, Iowa is comprised of four congressional districts as drawn following the 2010 United States Census. This year's 89th General Assembly will determine the reapportionment using the 2020 census.

## Sister State



[Senate Joint Resolution 30](#), approved April 12, 1961, was an additional item of action taken by the 59th General Assembly, recognizing Yamanashi Prefecture, Japan, as Iowa's very first international sister state.

A sister state relationship is a formal declaration of friendship between two regions, states, or nations. Such an agreement is a symbol of mutual goodwill. There are nine of these

Iowa sister states that connect Iowa culture and agriculture with "sister cities" around the world. Iowa's other sister states include Yucatan, Mexico (1965), Hebei Province, China (1983), Terengganu, Malaysia (1987), Stavropol Krai, Russia (1988), Taiwan (1989), Cherkasy Oblast, Ukraine (1996), Veneto Region, Italy (1997) and the Republic of Kosovo (2013).

The 59th General Assembly desired to formally confirm the international "sister state" relationship with Yamanashi Prefecture, Japan, a relationship that began in 1959 when a typhoon destroyed their livestock industry.

### SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

A Joint Resolution recognizing Yamanashi Prefecture as Iowa's sister state in Japan.

WHEREAS, President Eisenhower, in 1956, inaugurated the "People-to-People" program to establish greater friendship and understanding between the peoples of the United States and other nations through the medium of direct personal contact; and

WHEREAS, to implement this program the state of Iowa, through its General Assembly, desires to recognize the Yamanashi Prefecture as our international "Sister State" in Japan; and

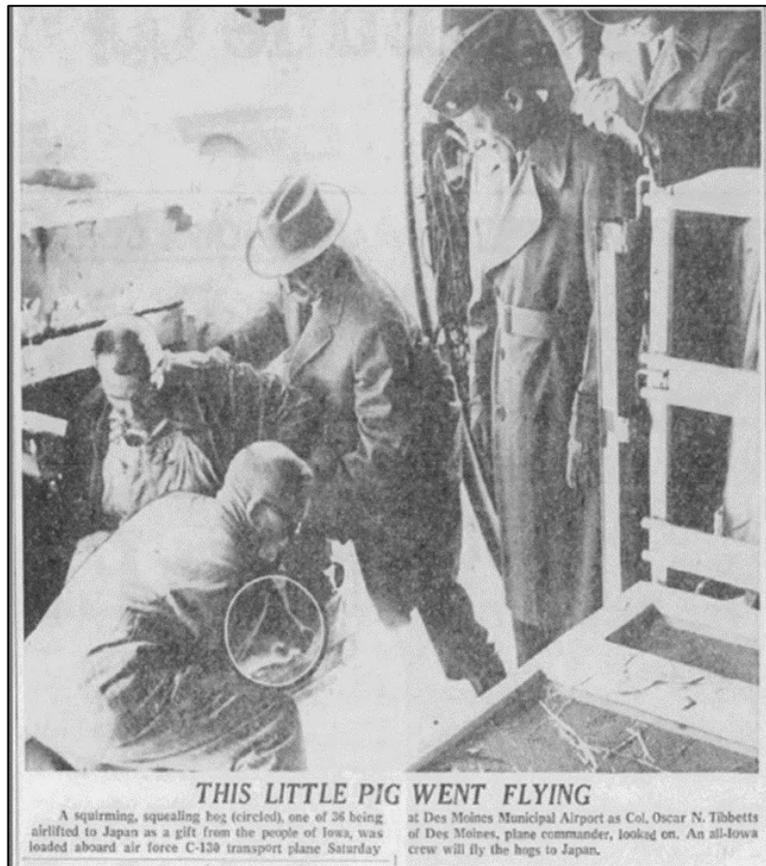
WHEREAS the governor of Iowa has invited the governor of Yamanashi Prefecture to visit Iowa when he is in the United States in 1961; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the state of Iowa desires to formally confirm this international "Sister State" relationship with Yamanashi Prefecture; NOW THEREFORE

*Be It Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

- 1 Section 1. That we recognize Yamanashi Prefecture as our
- 2 international "Sister State" under the "People-to-People" program
- 3 for the purpose of creating lasting friendship between the people
- 4 of the state of Iowa and the people of Yamanashi Prefecture.

In response, Iowa sent 35 breeding hogs and 60,000 bushels of corn to help with the recovery – an event that is famously known today as the Iowa Hog Lift. The people of Yamanashi Prefecture responded in kind during Iowa's flood disaster of 1993, presenting a generous gift of monetary assistance for flood relief to the farmers of Iowa.



*Des Moines Tribune – January 16, 1960*

Excerpt from [remarks made by Governor Hisashi Amano of Yamanashi Prefecture, Japan, before Joint Convention May 1, 1961](#)

REMARKS MADE BY GOVERNOR HISASHI AMANO OF  
YAMANASHI PREFECTURE, JAPAN, BEFORE  
JOINT CONVENTION MAY 1, 1961

MR. SPEAKER, HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, GOVERNOR ERBE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

It is the greatest honor and privilege to me throughout my whole life that I have visited the State of Iowa to which Yamanashi Prefecture is linked as Sister-State, the first such relationship between Japan and the United States of America and that I am given such a warm and hearty welcome.

In the United States of America which, brimful of high spirits of frontiers and building-up, has long been the excellent leader of the whole nations following freedom and democracy, your State of Iowa is our big sister and our ideal, standing unrivaled in the world as typical agricultural state.

Such a very cordial welcome given me by you and the people of Iowa so generous and intelligent is not only a great happiness to myself, but also an honor to the whole Japanese, for which I wish to express my most sincere appreciation.

The purpose of my visit to the State of Iowa is to convey to you in person on behalf of the people of Japan, especially the people of Yamanashi Prefecture, the untold gratitude and appreciation for the warm friendship and generous expression of sympathy which you demonstrated to us when Yamanashi suffered from unprecedented typhoon disasters in August and September of 1959.

In 1961, Yamanashi gave a very large ceremonial bronze temple bell and bell house to the people of Iowa as an expression of Yamanashi's gratitude to commemorate the generosity of Iowans who responded to the devastation inflicted on Yamanashi farmers in 1959. The 2,000-pound temple bell of peace and friendship, as well as the structure that houses it, sits on the south Capitol grounds.

2021 will mark the 60th anniversary of the Iowa-Yamanashi sister state relationship.

