

*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 historical publications are reproduced here with the actual spelling, punctuation, and grammar retained.

**April 13, 2016**

**THIS WEEK:**

**Iowa Governors Who Were in Office During World War II, the Korean Conflict, the Cold War, and the War in Vietnam**

**BACKGROUND:**

This is part seven and part eight in the series examining the public service history of Iowa's Governors.

***George Wilson***

George Wilson served two terms as Iowa's 28th Governor from 1939 to 1943.

He was Secretary of the Senate from 1911 to 1913. Governor Wilson presided as a district court judge from 1917 to 1921.

Governor Wilson served in the Iowa Senate from 1927 to 1937. He went on to serve in the U.S. Senate from 1943 to 1949.

Governor Wilson was born near Menlo, Iowa, in 1884 and died in 1953. He is buried in Des Moines, Iowa.





### ***Bourke Hickenlooper***

Bourke Hickenlooper served one term as Iowa's 29th Governor from 1943 to 1945.

Governor Hickenlooper served two terms in the Iowa House of Representatives from 1935 to 1939. He also served as Lieutenant Governor from 1939 to 1943.

After his time as governor, Governor Hickenlooper was elected to the U.S. Senate, serving four terms from 1945 to 1969.

Governor Hickenlooper was born in Blockton, Iowa, and died in 1971. He is buried in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.



**Governor Hickenlooper at the Iowa State Capitol**

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### ***Robert Blue***

Robert Blue served as Iowa's 30th Governor. His two terms ran from 1945 to 1949.

Governor Blue served four terms in the House of Representatives from 1935 to 1943, serving as Speaker of the House during his final term from 1941 to 1943.

Governor Blue served as Lieutenant Governor, presiding over the Senate from 1943 to 1945.

Governor Blue was born in Eagle Grove, Iowa, in 1898 and died in 1989. He is buried in Eagle Grove, Iowa.





**Governor Robert Blue**

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***William Beardsley\****

William Beardsley, Iowa's 31st Governor, served two full terms and a portion of a third term from 1949 to 1954.

Governor Beardsley was elected to the Iowa Senate and served from 1933 to 1941. He also had one term in the Iowa House of Representatives from 1947 to 1949.

Governor Beardsley was born in Beacon, Iowa, in 1901 and was killed in an automobile accident on November 21, 1954. He is buried in New Virginia, Iowa.

Governor Beardsley was the only Iowa Governor to die in office.

# Iowa Governor Killed in Crash Near Des Moines

**State Leader Lacked  
Two Months of Ending  
Third Term in Office.**

DES MOINES (AP)—Gov. William S. Beardsley was killed in an automobile-truck crash near here last night, less than two months before he would have completed his third term as Iowa's chief executive.

Highway patrolmen said the car crashed into the rear of a pickup truck driven by John Gardner, 54, of Des Moines, about six miles north of Des Moines on State Highway 60.

\*To read more about Governor Beardsley, please see *Pieces of Iowa's Past* from February 16, 2011, by clicking here:

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/TB/13755.pdf>



**Governor Beardsley's body lies in state in the Iowa State Capitol rotunda.**

## ***Leo Elthon***

Leo Elthon, Iowa's 32nd Governor, completed the remainder of Governor Beardsley's third term.

Lieutenant Governor Elthon was inaugurated as Governor the day after Governor Beardsley automobile accident. Elthon's term was November 22, 1954, to January 13, 1955, a total of 53 days.

Governor Elthon returned to the office of Lieutenant Governor until 1957. He served in the Iowa Senate from 1933 to 1953 and then again from 1963 to 1967.

Governor Elthon was born in Fertile, Iowa, in 1898 and died in 1967. He is buried in Fertile, Iowa.



## ***Leo Hoegh***

Leo Hoegh, Iowa's 33rd Governor, held office for one term from 1955 to 1957.

Governor Hoegh was a member of the Iowa House of Representatives for three terms from 1937 to 1943. Governor Hoegh was appointed Iowa's Attorney General by Governor Beardsley in 1953.

After serving as Iowa's Governor, President Eisenhower appointed Governor Hoegh as the National Director of Civil Defense mobilization.

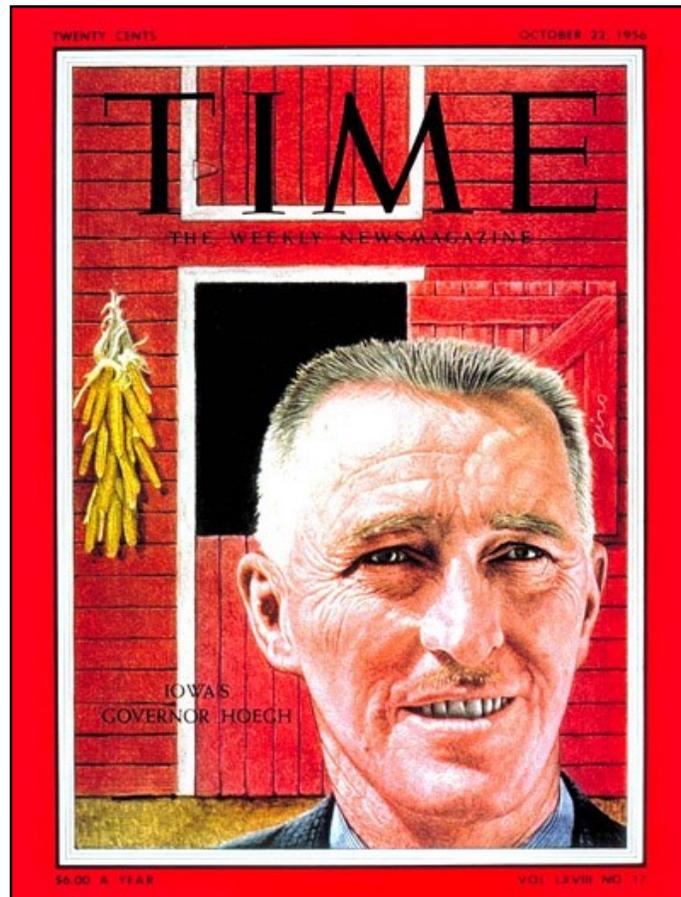
Governor Hoegh was born in Audubon County, Iowa, in 1908 and died in 2000. He is buried in Colorado Springs, Colorado.



**Governor Hoegh launches Iowa Tree Farm program on May 30, 1955. (Photo used with permission of the Forest History Society)**



**Governor Hoegh and his wife, Mary Louise**



**Governor Hoegh on the cover of  
*Time* magazine, October 22, 1956**



**Leo Hoegh, National Director of Civil Defense mobilization  
during the Eisenhower Administration**

## ***Hershel Loveless***

Hershel Loveless, Iowa's 34th Governor, served two terms from 1957 to 1961. Governor Loveless has no state legislative history and no congressional history.

Governor Loveless served on the Federal Renegotiating Board in Washington D.C. after serving as Governor. He also served as mayor of Ottumwa from 1949 to 1953.

Governor Loveless was born in Hedrick, Iowa, in 1911 and died in 1989. He is buried in Ottumwa, Iowa.



**Governor Loveless with Senator John F. Kennedy entering the Iowa Memorial Union at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, in 1959.**



**Governor Loveless**



***Norman Erbe***

Norman Erbe, Iowa's 35th Governor, served one term from 1961 to 1963. Governor Erbe has no legislative history.

He served as Iowa's Attorney General from 1957 to 1961.

After serving as Iowa's Governor, Governor Erbe worked as a representative for the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Governor Erbe was born in Boone, Iowa, in 1919 and died in 2000. He is buried in Boone, Iowa.



**Governor Erbe**

## ***Harold Hughes***

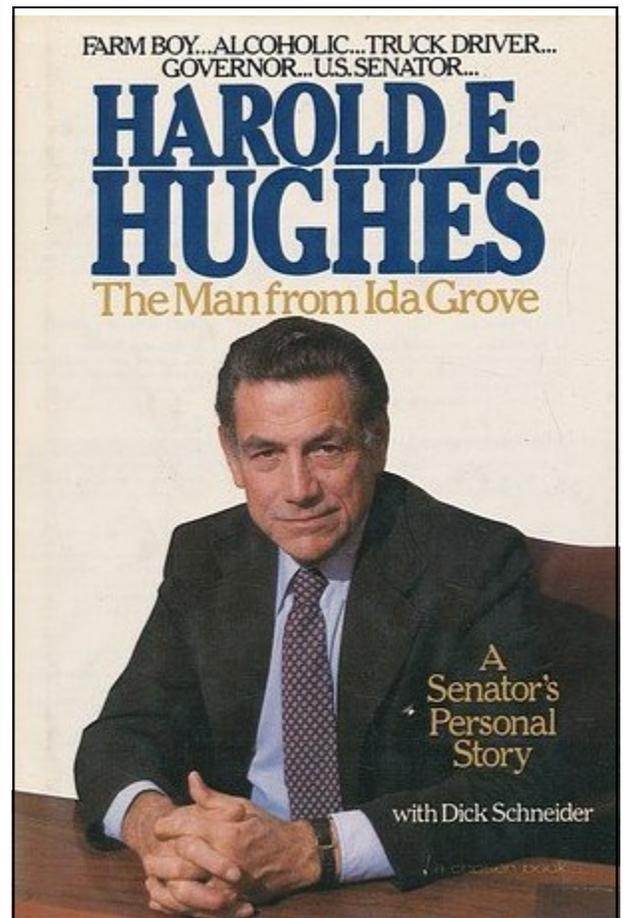
Harold Hughes, Iowa's 36th Governor, served three terms from 1963 to 1969. Governor Hughes did not serve in the Iowa Legislature but did serve on the State Commerce Commission from 1958 to 1962.

After serving as Governor, Governor Hughes was elected to the U.S. Senate.

Governor Hughes was born in Ida Grove, Iowa, in 1922 and died in 1996. He is buried in Ida Grove, Iowa.



**Governor Hughes with Senator Robert Kennedy**



**Autobiography of Governor Hughes**



### **Robert Fulton**

Robert Fulton, Iowa's 37th Governor, was inaugurated on January 1, 1969. His term ended January 16, 1969.

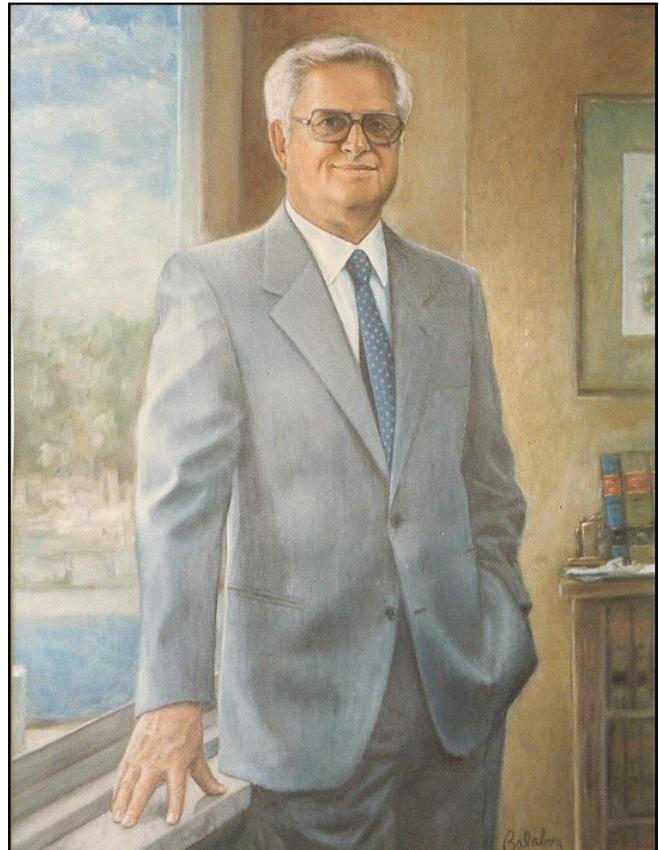
Governor Fulton served only 16 days, the shortest term of any Iowa Governor. Governor Hughes resigned to take his seat in the U.S. Senate. Governor Ray had been elected, but not yet inaugurated. The Iowa Constitution requires an acting governor, so Governor Fulton served the remaining days of Hughes' final term.

Governor Fulton served as an Iowa State Representative for one term from 1959 to 1961. He then served in the Iowa Senate and was elected Lieutenant Governor serving from 1965 to 1968.

Governor Fulton was born in Waterloo, Iowa, in 1929.



**Recent picture of Governor Fulton**



**Portrait of Governor Fulton**

**To read the Iowa Legislative biographies of the following Iowa Governors on the Iowa General Assembly website, click the link below each name.**

**George Wilson**

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=42&personID=2387>

**Bourke Hickenlooper**

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=46&personID=2271>

**Robert Blue**

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=46&personID=2141>

**William Beardsley**

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=45&personID=2180>

**Leo Elthon**

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=61&personID=1865>

**Leo Hoegh**

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=47&personID=2157>

**Robert Fulton**

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=58&personID=1532>