

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 20, 2016

THIS WEEK:

Iowa Governors from 1969 to the Present

BACKGROUND:

This is part nine—the final in the series examining the public service history of Iowa's governors.

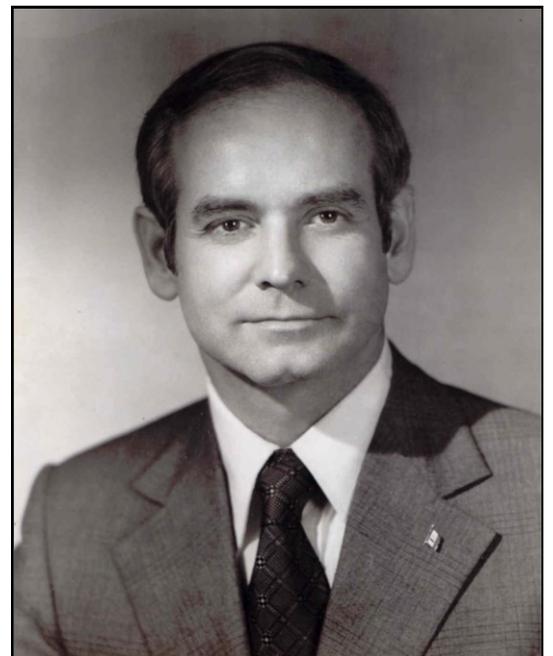
Robert Ray

Robert Ray, Iowa's 38th governor, served five consecutive terms.*

Governor Ray took office in 1969. He served until 1983. Governor Ray served three two-year terms and two four-year terms, a total of 14 years.

Governor Ray had no legislative or congressional history. He did serve as the interim mayor of Des Moines in 1997.

He was born in 1928 in Des Moines, Iowa.



**An Iowa Constitutional amendment in 1972 changed the governor's term from two years to four years.*



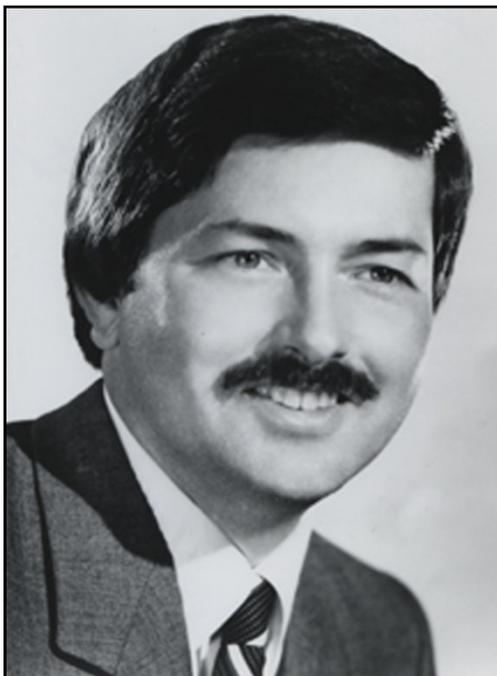
Governor Robert Ray



Governor Ray in his office



Recent picture of Governor Robert Ray



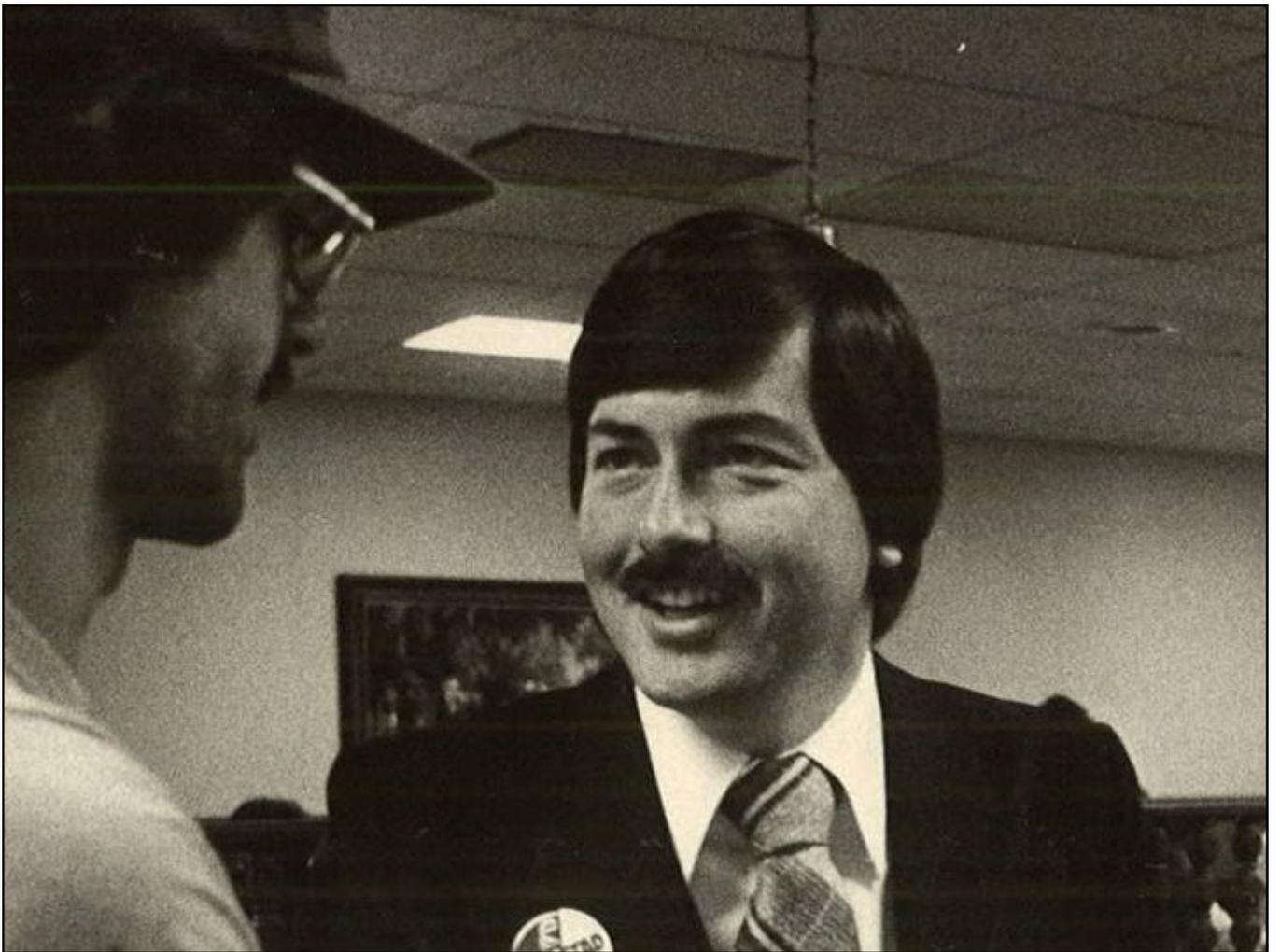
Terry Branstad

Terry Branstad, Iowa's 39th governor, served four consecutive terms from 1983 to 1999.

Governor Branstad served in the Iowa House of Representatives from 1973 to 1979.

He was elected Lieutenant Governor presiding over the Senate from 1979 to 1983.

Governor Branstad was born in Leland, Iowa, in 1946.



Governor Terry Branstad

Tom Vilsack

Tom Vilsack, Iowa's 40th governor, served two terms from 1999 to 2007.

Governor Vilsack was a member of the Iowa Senate from 1993 to 1999. He was mayor of Mt. Pleasant before he became governor.

Governor Vilsack was appointed by President Obama in 2008 to be the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture after serving as Iowa's governor.

Governor Vilsack was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1950.



U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack



Chester Culver

Chester Culver, Iowa's 41st governor, served one term from 2007 to 2011.

Governor Culver had no legislative or congressional history. He did, however, serve as Iowa's Secretary of State from 1999 to 2007.

Governor Culver was born in Washington, D.C., in 1966.



Governor Chet Culver



Governor Chet Culver during his Condition of the State Address



Recent picture of Governor Chet Culver



Terry Branstad

Terry Branstad, Iowa's 39th and 42nd governor, was elected in 2010.

Governor Branstad is the second Iowa governor to serve a non-consecutive term.

He took office in 2011, beginning his fifth term and was elected to a sixth term in 2014.



Terry Branstad, Iowa's current Governor



Iowa Governors: Robert Ray, Tom Vilsack, Chet Culver, and Terry Branstad with World Food Prize founder and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Dr. Norman Borlaug at the 2007 Iowa Hunger Summit

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

Terry Branstad

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=67&personID=89>

Tom Vilsack

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=75&personID=1196>