

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 General Assembly, 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 take 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 the 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)

- 1996** Simon Estes
(international opera singer)
- 1999** Maurice Lasansky
(artist, educator)
- 1999** John Astanasoff
(physicist, mathematician, educator, inventor of the first electronic digital computer)
- 2001** John Ruan
(innovative entrepreneur, philanthropist, World Food Prize sponsor)
- 2002** George Washington Carver
(internationally renowned scientist and humanitarian)
- 2005** Robert D. Ray
(Governor, statesman, mayor, university president, lawyer, and insurance executive)
- 2006** Harry Hopkins
(founder of WPA programs under Presidents Roosevelt and Truman)
- 2009** Grant Wood
(artist)
- 2010** William C. “Bill” Knapp
(philanthropist, business and community leader)
- 2012** Richard “Dick” O. Jacobson
(transportation pioneer, entrepreneur, and philanthropist)