

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers



President's Report

August 2021

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

The State Convention in Dubuque is just over the horizon, and the number of branches that have sent in their registrations, signals a very large gathering. Concerns over the recent increase of Covid Variants, is prompting your State Association to work closely with our National Association in taking all possible precautions to ensure participants are in a safe environment. We will be contacting all branches with guidelines to follow while in attendance. For room information, visit the ISALC website and scroll down to the ISALC State Convention, and note that the deadline is September 3rd to secure rooms at the Grand Harbor Resort. I am looking forward to seeing everyone.

On Saturday July 17th I was able to travel to Fort Dodge to pay my last respects to Ed O'Leary, former Iowa State Association President for 3 terms, and Hall of Fame member. I had been introduced to Ed many years ago when he was running for State President. He had campaigned in Mason City at a branch meeting, and the members decided to vote in block for Ed at State Convention. I was elected as a delegate that year. Over the years, my memories of Ed had to do with union business, and that he was from Fort Dodge. Attending his funeral was an eye opener. Saying Ed had a servant's heart would be an understatement. Reading the obituary, and hearing the eulogy was an inspiration. It is hard to believe anyone would have the time, energy, or ambition to accomplish all that this man did. A list of some of his achievements follow.

Days after retiring from the Post Office after 35 years, he became director of the Fort Dodge Human Rights Commission, serving for 9 years. He served 2 three-year terms on the Fort Dodge School Board, 1 year as president. He served as the President of the North Central Federation of Labor, worked with the school board to eliminate segregation in the Fort Dodge School District, served with the Area Education Agency, worked as a Red Cross Volunteer, was a United Way Board Member, Daybreak Rotary Club Member, Youth Sports Coach, and usher at Corpus Christi Catholic Church. He was also a veteran of the United States Air Force. In his Eulogy services Monsignor Kevin McCoy said, "In essence, Ed's life encompassed the

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methodology: preach the gospel always, using words when necessary". Ed spoke with his actions.

Former Iowa State Senator Daryl Beall said it this way about the manager of his 4 Senate campaigns:

"Ed's lifetime of service demonstrates the opportunity for all to take part in service and leadership. Ed did not have a college education, but he possessed something even more important: intelligence, passion, and desire to serve and lead. Ed was a humble, working-class guy, respected and revered by business leaders, professionals, indeed people of all socio, educational, and economic strata. Ed would probably say that public service is its own reward. He derived personal satisfaction and pride from serving. He was a giver and doer and contributed greatly to improve the community he loved. This community will greatly miss Ed O'Leary".

Rest in peace Ed. Thanks for the memories Brother, and inspiration to serve others.

In Solidarity,

Herb Copley, President

Iowa State Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO

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