

EMS BUILDING DEDICATED TO DELORES POULTER WILSON

Several people gathered around and in the new Emergency Medical Services Pavilion on a chilly November afternoon to dedicate the structure to Delores Poulter Wilson.

Dr. Poulter Wilson, a professor at Iowa Wesleyan University, is no stranger to the community or to Old Threshers. She remembers when the Reunion was in its infancy and the thought of on-site medical services was no where on the horizon.

Eventually there were tents erected to temporarily house EMS staff from the local health center. Just a few years ago, the Paul Anderson Welcome Center was built on the north side of the grounds to include a first aid station offering a climate controlled room to treat visitors. This access to air conditioning saw the number of visitors being transferred by ambulance for heat related illnesses decline drastically.

EMS staff stationed on the south side of the grounds still had to operate out of a tent. A temporary building was used at the 2016 Reunion. It was such a success that plans were made to build a permanent structure. Thanks to seed money from the Henry County Health Center Foundation, the fundraising efforts of Alan Husinga and other members of the Foundation, The Delores Poulter Wilson Emergency Medical Services Building became a reality just in time for the 2017 Reunion. While Dr. Poulter Wilson is a major contributor to the campaign, 100 individuals and entities in the community also contributed.



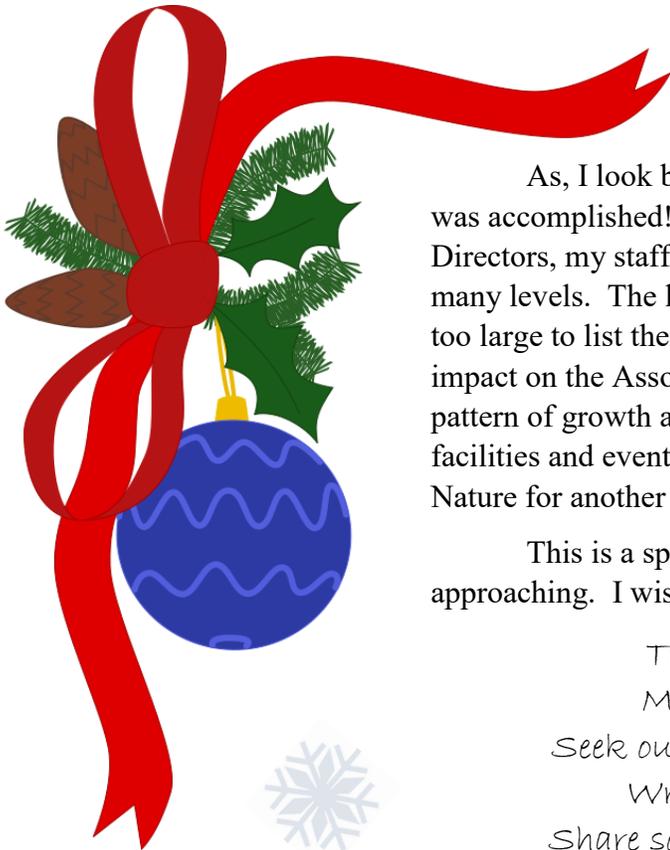
Delores Poulter Wilson cuts the ribbon during the dedication of the new EMS building. Holding the ribbon are Barry and Linda Wilson.



Old Threshers CEO Terry McWilliams (left), Foundation Secretary Melinda Husinga and Foundation Executive Director, Alan Husinga (right), pose with Delores Poulter Wilson following the ribbon cutting at the dedication of the new EMS Building.



(Left:) With a little help from her mom and dad Erin and Lucas Moore, Amber Rose, the granddaughter of Sandy and Lennis Moore, cuts the ribbon during the dedication ceremony of the *Influence of Transportation & Safety on Rural Life*. They are joined in the photo by Amber's sister Linden, OT CEO Terry McWilliams and OT Board President Bob Gerdes. The exhibit was the last one designed by Lennis before his passing.



Greetings from Old Threshers,

As, I look back on the 2017 year, I am amazed at the list of what was accomplished! I need to say “THANK YOU”, to the Board of Directors, my staff and the many volunteers that made 2017 a success on so many levels. The list of projects and events that happened this past year is too large to list them all. But each one of those items on the list had a huge impact on the Association as a whole. As I look ahead to 2018, I see that pattern of growth and change continuing all across the Association’s facilities and events. Plus, I have already put in a good word with Mother Nature for another great weather year for the 2018 Old Threshers Reunion.

This is a special time of the year with the Holiday Season fast approaching. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!

*This Christmas
Mend a quarrel.
Seek out a forgotten friend.
Write a love letter.
Share some treasure. Give a
Soft answer. Encourage youth.
Keep a promise. Find the time.
Forgive an enemy. Listen.
Apologize if you were wrong.
Think first of someone else.
Be kind and gentle.
Laugh a little. Laugh a little more.
Express your gratitude. Gladden the
Heart of a child. Take pleasure
In the beauty and wonder of the earth.
Speak your love. Speak it again.
Speak it all at once again.*

Anonymous

Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy New Year, Warmest Wishes, Peace on Earth, Winter Wonderland, Merry & Bright, Jingle Bells, and much more Holiday Wishes your way!

Thank you all for making Old Threshers a part of your life. A gift that gives Old Threshers the strength to grow and change.

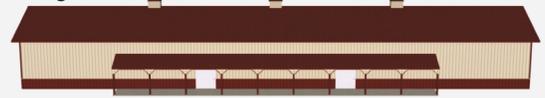
On behalf of my family, we wish each and every one a Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year. I look forward to working with each of you in 2018.

Tang

NEW BUILDINGS TO BE ERECTED IN 2018

The new year will see new buildings around the Old Threshers grounds. The biggest of the projects is a new Bus Barn and Storage building to be built along Threshers Road east of the Hazel Grace Pierson Carousel Pavilion. This new building will house Old Thresher's fleet of buses as well as act as storage for many seasonal items. There may also be an area of the building that can be rented out for events. During the Old Threshers Reunion, the building will be the new home of the Swap "Tent." This building is being paid for in part by a major donation from the Old Threshers Foundation

Facing North



Facing South



Facing West



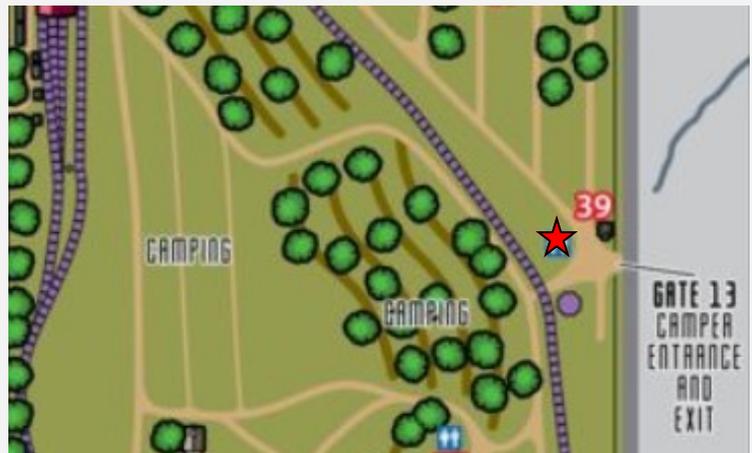
Facing East



At right is a section of the map of the Old Threshers grounds. The red star indicates where the storage building will go. Above is a computer-generated drawing of what the new building will look like.



Another building to be added will be a new Campground Registration building. The climate-controlled building will be built inside Gate 13 and across the road from the current building. This new location will allow easier access to cars and campers during the camper registration process during the Old Threshers Reunions. Another advantage to volunteers is during Festival of Lights. Those working, in what sometimes are frigid temperatures, will have easy access to the heated building while being close to cars entering the light park.



Pictured above is a map of the Old Threshers Campground. The star indicates where the new Campground Registration building will be. At left is the current Camper Registration building decorated for the Festival of Lights. Above that is a computer-generated drawing of the new building.



CONSTRUCTION HAS BEGUN ON DOLL & CLOTHING MUSEUM

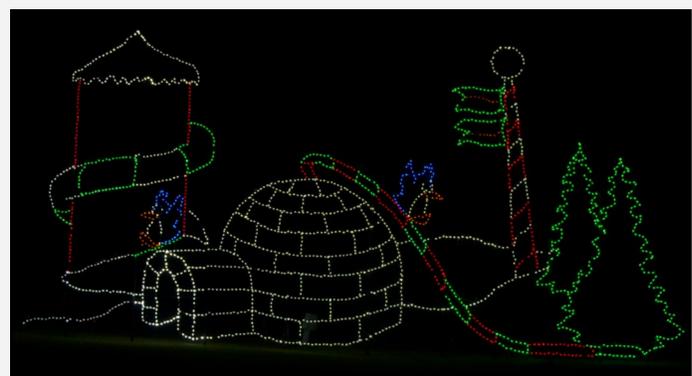
Museum A will be home to the new doll and clothing museum. The concrete floor has been poured and framing of the outside walls is complete. With seed money from the Old Threshers Foundation, grant money from Enhance Henry County Community Foundation and private donations, this newest addition to Old Threshers will allow expansion of the Bussey Doll Collection as well as a place to display the Association's clothing collection.

When completed, the new space will offer a place for groups to gather to learn about the dolls and clothing as well as a hands-on area for young visitors.



FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS FEATURES MORE THAN 100 DISPLAYS

The 2017 Mt. Pleasant Festival of Lights features 118 light displays. When the attraction was in its first year, there were 65 displays. A cold and wet October made setting up the lights a challenge. As opening night came in mid-November, temperatures were above normal. While the warm temperatures made selling tickets enjoyable, but they kept the snow away. That didn't seem to bother people traveling from across Iowa to see the display. Just in time for Christmas, Mother Nature blanketed southeast Iowa with snow adding to the whimsy of the lights. Thank you too all of the sponsors and volunteers who make the Festival of Lights possible. There is still time to see the lights. Hours are 5:30-9pm nightly thru Dec. 31st.





OLD THRESHERS FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 11/01/16 – 10/31/17



Alan Huisinga, Foundation
Executive Director

It is my pleasure, as Executive Director, to provide a brief overview of the Old Threshers Foundation. 2017 was a milestone for the Foundation – it was our 30th year of operation. The Foundation was organized in February 1986 with \$40,000. And now, thirty years later, the Foundation's assets have grown to **\$2,165,611.42**.

The purpose of the Foundation is to provide financial assistance to Midwest Old Threshers. During these past 30 years, the Foundation has given \$1,106,733.85 in earnings (investment earnings plus farm rent) to Old Threshers to fund various projects, some of which have recently included:

- Trolley track work and trolley car restoration
- Restroom upgrades
- New storage building
- Campground and grounds LED lighting improvements
- Terrace drainage in the campground
- New museum display for cars, trucks and fire department
- Seed money for a new museum to display antique dolls and clothing

At the Foundation's annual board meeting in November, the following board members were re-elected to three-year terms: Mike Barton, Jason Goody, Melinda Huisinga, John Jensen and Todd Mabeus. The following officers were re-elected: Todd Mabeus, president; John Jensen, vice president; Melinda Huisinga, secretary; and Jason Goody, treasurer.

The Board also approved their annual funding in the amount of \$111,571.16 to Midwest Old Threshers in support of their 2018 projects; this is the highest amount in Foundation history. These funds will be used to continue the LED lighting improvements throughout the grounds and to build a new multi-purpose 40'x160' building to be used as a trading post during the reunion and a storage building the remainder of the year.

As you approach year-end and consider your charitable contributions for this tax year, please keep our Old Threshers Foundation in mind. Remember your gifts to our Foundation qualify as charitable contributions to a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization for Federal income, estate and gift tax purposes. In addition to monetary contributions to either the pass through account or the endowment, other ways to support the Foundation include: a will bequest, a designation as a life insurance beneficiary, IRA, and/or a gift of appreciated stock. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at the Midwest Old Threshers office 319-385-8937 or e-mail otfoundation@oldthreshers.org.

On behalf of the Foundation Board, we thank all of you for your continued support which enables us to fulfill our mission of providing financial support to Midwest Old Threshers. May you and your family have a very Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy new year!

Thank you,

Alan D. Huisinga, Executive Director

FEATURED FOR 2018



2018 Featured Garden Tractor
1970 Mowett Mustang
Owned by:
Matt & Cheri Taglauer of Fairfield, IA



2018 Featured Gas Engine
1914 United
Owned by:
Rich Mueller Sr. of Wright City, Mo

2018 Featured Traction Steam Engine
1917 Case
Owned by:
Jacob Nelson of Lockridge, IA



2018 Featured Tractor
1951 Ford
Owned by:
John & Dawn Butler of Marion, IA

2018 Featured Truck
1951 ¾ Ton Studebaker
Owned by:
Phil Graber of Mt. Pleasant, IA

2018 Featured Car
1965 Ford Fastback Mustang
Owned by:
Owen & Norma White of Ainsworth, IA



AUG. 30 - SEPT. 3, 2018
OLD THRESHERS
REUNION
MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA

A LOOK INTO THE PAST



The aerial photo on the left is from 1965. The Old Threshers Reunion was in full-swing when this photo was taken. The grandstand is in the lower left corner. The Midwest Central Railroad's North Station is at the top of the photo. What other landmarks can you find?



This photo is taken from drone footage of the 2017 Reunion. The buildings in the foreground are the Heritage Museums, the Steam Area is above that, followed by Tractorland and the Grandstand.



2017 OT PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



1st Place Ali Baker = Rope Making



3rd Place Bryan Bechtold = Threshing

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to everyone who entered the 2017 Old Threshers Photo Contest. There were a lot good photos to choose from. Our judges did not have an easy job.



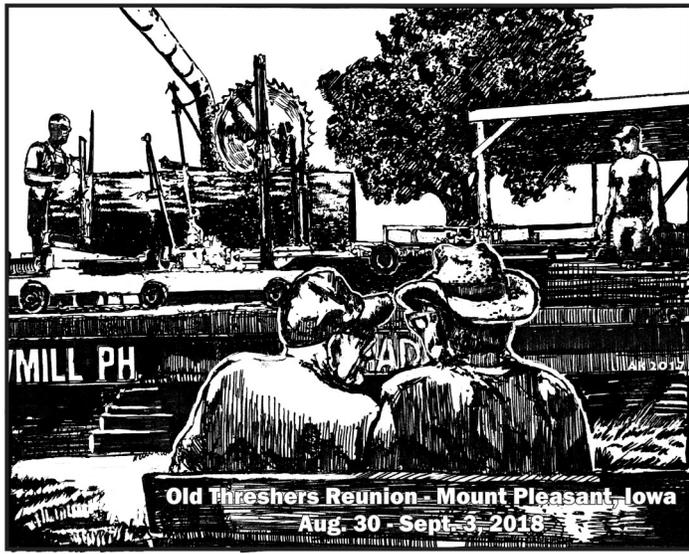
2nd Place Katheryne McCauley = Carousel Ticket Booth



Honorable Mention
Ron Maggard = Case 110



INTRODUCING THE 2018 30-HOUR VOLUNTEER AWARD



Local artist, Ann Klingensmith, created the 2018 30-hour volunteer award. First to receive this honor during the Old Threshers Annual Meeting in November were (from left to right) Melinda Huisinga, Maddy Hobbs, Donna Oliver, Jeanie Seberg and Teresa Carver.



STREET PRINTING NEW DEMONSTRATION IN 2017



New to the 2017 Old Threshers Reunion was Street Printing. The Traction Steam Area, together with Printers' Hall, offered the unique demonstration using the 2017 featured engine, a 1905 12-ton Kelly Springfield Roller and several linoleum and wood cuts done by Printers' Hall volunteers. The non-traditional printing method was demonstrated on Friday and Saturday of the Reunion and again during the Printers' Fair later in September.



FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS PARADE 30TH ANNIVERSARY FLOAT

In honor of the 30th Anniversary of the Old Threshers Foundation, Foundation board members assembled a float for the 2017 Harvest Parade. Todd and Amy Mabeus pulled the float while Jason Goody, Joyce Dennison, Linda Hicks, Sharon Davis, Melinda Huisinga, Dean Hicks, Jan Johnston, Al Huisinga, Kristin Sieren and Lincoln and Conrad Sieren threw candy and waved at parade watchers from the float.



OBITUARIES

Pauline Spraker

Pauline L. Spraker, 99, of Mt. Pleasant, died September 1, 2017 at the Henry County Health Center in Mt. Pleasant.

Mrs. Spraker, the former Pauline Lucille Pounds, was born July 22, 1918 at home in rural Mt. Pleasant. She was the daughter of Walter Ulysses and Minnie Neveda (Ford) Pounds. She began her education at the West Pleasant Lawn School (west of Mt. Pleasant) and graduated from Olds High School in 1935. On Dec. 12, 1959 at the First United Methodist Church in Mt. Pleasant, Pauline was united in marriage to Arthur Leroy "Art" Spraker. Mr. Spraker died July 19, 2000.

Mrs. Spraker was a longtime sales associate. She began her career at the former Hoaglin's 5&10 in Mt. Pleasant, and retired from the J.C. Penney's store after working there for 21 years.

Mrs. Spraker was a member of the First United Methodist Church and a former member of the United Methodist Women. She was a member of the VFW Auxiliary Post #2561 and served many years as the Chaplain of the post. She was a charter member of the Women of the Moose of Mt. Pleasant. Pauline served in many volunteer capacities. She was a volunteer for the Henry County Health Center at the Information Desk and in the Gift Shop. She also volunteered for duties at the former Mental Health Institute in Mt. Pleasant. She served many capacities as a volunteer for Midwest Old Threshers, most especially for the school tours in the spring. She was presented the Governor's Volunteer Award for her many hours of service.

Pauline was a very active bowler. She bowled several times a week and in several leagues. Over 45 years ago, Pauline and her husband began the Junior Bowling Program in Mt. Pleasant. The program has grown and flourished since its inception. Because of her activity in youth bowling, Pauline received the Volunteer of the Year Award from the Junior State Bowling Association.

Those thankful for sharing in Pauline's life include a son and his wife, Steven & Kathy Ingwersen of Blue Grass, IA; a daughter-in-law and her husband, Lois & John Welch of Cedar Rapids, IA, 6 grandchildren – Michelle Pitz, Christine Long, Brian Ingwersen, Dale Ingwersen, Jeff Ingwersen and Jodi Howard; 16 great grandchildren and special friends Bill & Rosemary Marley, Gloria Goodwin and Betty Baker.

Her parents, husband, a son – Keith

Ingwersen (who died in 1973), 3 brothers – Orville, James and Clarence Pounds and a granddaughter, Jennifer Welch, precede Pauline in death.

Those considering an expression of sympathy may direct memorials to the First United Methodist Church or the Midwest Old Threshers Foundation.

Bob Stull

Bobby Joe "Bob" Stull, 87, of Lincoln (formerly Mt. Pleasant, IA), died October 28, 2017 in Lincoln at The Tabitha Journey House. Bob was born on May 24, 1930 in Ollie, IA to Blanche (Brock) & Guy Stull. His family moved to Mt. Pleasant, where Bob met his beloved, Joyce Elaine Rich. Happily married for 53 years they lovingly raised one daughter, Jill.

Throughout his life Bob held a variety of jobs including crop duster pilot, lineman and electrician, eventually owning his own small business, Stull Electric. He enjoyed his business and worked well into his 70's when he finally retired to his hobbies of golf, woodcarving, gardening and helping Joyce around the house. He loved spending time with his granddaughters, Allison and Anna, travelling to visit them in Lincoln, going on vacations with Jill, her husband Pat, and the girls, and assisting Pat with projects.

Bob also enjoyed attending the First Baptist Church of Mt. Pleasant where he was a member for many years. It was there that he became a Christian and subsequently devoted much of his time. He was a Sunday School teacher, a youth group leader, a deacon and worked on many committees and projects. It brought him great joy. He was known as a man who exemplified the Fruit of the Holy Spirit...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

In addition to his civilian life of great sacrifice, he was a proud member of the United States Armed Forces. Immediately upon his graduation from high school at age 17, he enlisted in the US Air Force. He was deployed to Korea where he served as an Artillery Forward Observer in the Army Branch. He was awarded the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal for Korea and the Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged in 1953. After a 3-year break in service Bob reenlisted and went on to have a long and distinguished career in the military serving in the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve. He

achieved the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and earned the Meritorious Service Medal. He officially retired from the US Army in 1990 after 40 years of service. During his military career he served in multiple roles but his proudest achievements were his training and assignments as fixed wing pilot, helicopter pilot and flight instructor. A superior officer once noted that "He is well liked and respected by superiors and subordinates alike. His moral character is sound. His loyalty is unquestionable. He has the ability to put all those around him at ease." This was evident in all aspects of his life.

Bob is survived by his daughter, Jill (Patrick) Hurlbut; granddaughters, Allison & Anna Hurlbut all of Lincoln; brother, Ted (Phyllis) Stull of Canyon TX; brothers-in-law, Keith Thomas, Canon City, Colorado; Edward (Marcia) Rich of Lockridge, Iowa; Will Rich of Clayton, Georgia; James (Jan) Rich of Port St. Lucie, Florida; Lyle Zear of Washington, Iowa; sisters-in-law, Lorraine Swanson of Arlington, Texas; Doris Ann Hall of Safety Harbor, Florida; and many nieces & nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife Joyce; and sisters, Sheri Thomas and Gayle Zickefoose.

Memorials are suggested to the First Baptist Church, 100 E. Webster St., Mt. Pleasant, IA or the Iowa Veterans Cemetery.

Gary Brown

Gary W. Brown, 68, of Mediapolis and formerly of Mt. Pleasant, died unexpectedly at his residence on Monday, October 30, 2017.

Gary Wayne Brown was born October 29, 1949 in Mt. Pleasant. He was the son of Rex Ralph and Meta (Moyle) Brown. He graduated from Mt. Pleasant High School in 1968. He was previously married to Karen S. Wilkins. On October 16, 2007 in Burlington, Gary was united in marriage to Marlene Belzer.

Gary was a longtime electrician. He attended the United Electronics Institute in West Des Moines. Gary served his electricians apprenticeship and obtained his journeyman electrician status at Mt. Pleasant Electric. Gary worked there and at Pioneer Hybrids. For 28 years, Gary was an electrician with the Burlington Northern/Sante Fe Railroad shops in West Burlington. He retired in 2015. Gary also farmed the family farm north of Salem, many years with his father Rex.

Continued on page 10

OBITUARIES CONTINUED

Gary was very involved with Midwest Old Threshers. He had attended every Reunion since its inception. For most of those years, Gary worked in the Steam Traction area. Gary's love was the timber on the farm. He was a true conservationist in his timber. He cut firewood from trees which needed to be harvested, and cared for the timber in many other ways.

Gary's faith was raised during his early years in the Cedar Creek Friends Church. He was a member and retiree of IBEW Local 13 of Burlington. Those thankful for sharing in Gary's life include his wife, Marlene Belzer of Mediapolis; 2 daughters, Jennifer Crull and her husband Matt and Joni Brown, all of Mt. Pleasant; 2 granddaughters – Emma and Elizabeth Crull; a sister, Mary Ann Brown and her husband Dan Luttenegger of Burlington and Ralph Brown of Dallas Center, IA and an aunt, Elloise Moyle. His parents precede Gary in death.

Those considering an expression of sympathy may direct memorials to the Cedar Creek Cemetery, the Midwest Old Threshers Foundation or the Shimek Forest Nature Preserve.

Clarence Farrier

Clarence Leo "Whimpy" Farrier, Jr., age 61, of Ainsworth, passed away Sunday, November 26, 2017 at his residence after failing in health for several years.

Interment with military honors took place at the Sandy Hook Cemetery in Brighton. A general memorial has been established. He graduated from Washington High School in 1974.

Clarence was united in marriage to Myra Showman on March 10, 1984 in South English, Iowa. Clarence worked as a farm hand for Hal Colliver and John Berdo for many years. He served 12 years in the Army National Guard.

Clarence volunteered at Old Threshers and enjoyed hunting, fishing and camping. He loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren. He is survived by his wife, Myra Farrier of Ainsworth, IA; children: Misty Schipper and husband Richard of Hannibal, MO; Steven Farrier of Brighton, IA; Rebecca Pacha and husband Paul of Brighton, IA; Ashley Pacha and husband Steven of Washington, IA; Ana Farrier of Washington, IA; Christina Fredrick and husband Kenny of Manchester, TN; Lauren McConnell and fiancé Jake of Wellman, IA; 20 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren; sister, Sally Farrier of

Haskins, IA; brother, Andy Farrier and wife Kathy of Wayland, IA; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents; son, Timothy Shafer; grandson, Ryan Shafer; brother, Don Farrier, Sr.; sister, Jane Bailey; and sister, Alice Smith. Cemetery Details Sandy Hook Cemetery.

David Ruby

David Mitchell Ruby, 56, of Mount Pleasant, died December 1, 2017, at the Henry County Health Center in Mount Pleasant.

Born February 21, 1961, in Fairfield, IA, he was the son of William Joseph and Linda Villa Ruby. He married Vickie Crawley in Hillsboro, IA on November, 7, 1997.

David was an Electronics Technician for Innovairre for eleven years.

He was a U.S. Army Veteran, serving during Desert Storm.

He was of Christian Faith. He enjoyed many hours volunteering and operating as an engineer and board member of the Midwest Central Railroad. He was a Ham radio operator and Skywarn spotter for the Quad City News, and enjoyed setting up Christmas lights to computer music and radio. When not doing that, he enjoyed fishing, traveling, rescuing horses, computer programming, and spending time with his family and friends. He also enjoyed spending time with his tiny filly, Evie.

Survivors include his wife; two daughters, Lindsay Renee Ruby and Jennifer Jo Ruby both of Mount Pleasant; two sisters, Brenda Holmgren of Fort Lupton, CO, and Kathi (Tommy) Cravens of Redding, CA; one brother, William Joseph Ruby Jr. of Redding, CA; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, grandparents, and one cousin.

A memorial has been established for the continuing education of his children.

Robert Mendenhall

Robert "Bob" Mendenhall, 79, of Mt. Pleasant, passed away Sunday, December 17, 2017, at his home.

Born December 18, 1937, in Mt. Pleasant, IA, Robert Lewis was the son of Everett John and Geneva Florence Breazeale Mendenhall. He was valedictorian of the Salem High School Class of 1956. He attended Iowa Wesleyan College. On August 24, 1957, Bob married Avis Marie Shaffner at the Salem Congregational Church. She preceded him

in death on August 08, 2011.

Serving in the National Guard, Bob was stationed at Fort McCoy in Wisconsin. He worked at various professions beginning as a photographer for the Mt. Pleasant News, owned and operated the Iris City Cleaners, general manager of the Sears Store in Mt. Pleasant, and a salesman for Midwest Publishing. For 27 years, Bob was the general manager of Staats from which he retired.

A life time resident of Henry County, Bob was a member of First Presbyterian Church where he enjoyed Wednesday bible studies. Bob was a former member of the Kiwanis Club, Masonic Lodge #8, A.F. and A.M., and the Blue Ribbon Foundation at the Iowa State Fair. Bob loved to hear and tell stories. He authored the book "Memories are Made of This"; his personal memories of growing up in Salem. Bob was Sargent of Arms for the Mt. Pleasant Safety Committee at the Mt. Pleasant Golf and Country Club.

Surviving Bob are two sons, Michael (Michelle) Mendenhall of Sleepy Hollow, IL and Steven (Lori) Mendenhall of Mt. Pleasant; three grandchildren, Karina Mendenhall, Reed and Riley Mendenhall; one sister-in-law, Helen Mendenhall of Mt. Pleasant; and cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Along with his parents and wife, Bob was preceded in death by a brother, Harold Mendenhall.

Gifts of love and friendship may be given to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.

**BUY YOUR TICKETS
FOR THE 2018
OLD THRESHERS
REUNION NOW!**

\$20 for 5-day admission

**Call 319-385-8937 or
go online**

www.oldthreshers.com

2018 EVENTS

Wednesday, January 3rd—OT Office Opens

Wednesday, January 7th—OT Board Meeting 7pm

Monday, February 19th—President's Day—OT Office Closed

Sunday, February 25th—Foundation Meeting 2pm

Wednesday, March 7th—OT Board Meeting 7pm

Wednesday, March 14th—Alive After Five—Country Music Announcement—5pm

Wednesday, April 4th—OT Board Meeting

Friday, April 20-Sunday, April 22nd—Theatre Seminar

Wednesday, April 25th—School Tours Start

Saturday, April 28th-Sunday, April 29th—Steam School

Saturday, May 5th—Trolley School

Saturday, May 5th-Sunday, May 6th—Steam School

Friday, May 25th-Saturday, May 26th—Swap Meet

Friday, May 25th-Sunday, May 27th—Gun Show

Monday, May 28th—Memorial Day—Heritage Museums open daily 8am-4:30pm



*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
from all of us at Midwest Old Threshers!*