



# NEWS



FALL 2021

from The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City

*Dedicated to the recognition, preservation and restoration of Greater Kansas City's unique heritage.*

## THE NATIVE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY 2021 OKC GALA

❧ TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2021 AT 6:00 P.M. ❧



**Edwin (Ed) Eilert**

*Chairman, Board of  
County Commissioners*

**T**he November 9, 2021 Gala will prove to be an outstanding event honoring our 2021 recipients, Johnson County Commission Chairman **Ed Eilert** and Kansas State University President, Retired General **Richard Myers**. They will be recognized for their years of leadership and service to our city and nation.

A year ago, NSDKC announced our recipients Ed Eilert and, Retired General Richard Myers. But the Pandemic Covid-19 virus caused us to cancel our 2020 Gala event and re-schedule it for November 9, 2021.

It has been a very difficult year and we are all experiencing the need to resume the associations that have suffered these last two years. We hope the Outstanding Kansas Citian dinner will offer an opportunity to recognize two men who have devoted their lives to public service, to re-establish, strengthen and initiate new friendships and to support the mission of NSDKC. *Continued on page 3 ➡*



**Richard Myers**

*President of Kansas State  
University and Retired General*

**Invitations have been mailed to you. Please plan to attend and respond right away!**



**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2021 • OVERLAND PARK CONVENTION CENTER**



## Dear members:

On November 9, 2021, at the Overland Park Convention Center, NSDKC will honor two Outstanding Kansas Citians, Mr. Ed Eilert and General Richard Myers. Please plan to register and attend this Gala. Due to the Covid Virus, two years have passed since our 2019 Gala when we honored George Guastello, CEO of Union Station. It is time to come together and celebrate life!

Please consider donating items to our Silent Auction. The proceeds will support the Mission of The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City.

I encourage all members to view our Facebook Page and click on "like." Important upcoming dates relating to NSDKC Events are on this site. Please be responsible when posting comments and always keep our mission statement in your mind and heart. To engage young and old members, we need to continue to be proactive with social media.

I love trivia, so did you know that on October 6, 1870, the first large theater in Kansas City, The Coates Opera House, opened. Unfortunately, the theater was destroyed in 1901 by a fire. So my question to you is, where was the location of the Coates Opera House? Email your answer to me, [millsfrench27@gmail.com](mailto:millsfrench27@gmail.com). I will post your reply on our Facebook Page. An easy solution to find. Just use google!

Happy Thanksgiving, and I hope to see you at the upcoming OKC Gala on November 9.



**Linn Mills**  
**2021 President**



**Linn Mills**  
**NSDKC President**

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## CALENDAR

### Outstanding Kansas Citian

Tuesday, November 9  
Overland Park Convention Center  
Reception/Silent Auction 6:00 PM  
Dinner 7:00 PM  
Program 8:00 PM

### Holiday Brunch

Saturday, December 11  
Indian Hills Country Club  
Reception 11:00, Brunch at Noon

## MEMORIALS

**Jerry Bowman**  
**Nancy Dillingham**



## OFFICERS & STAFF

Linda F. Mills

*President*

John Dunnewind

*1st Vice President*

Marsha Daley

*2nd Vice President*

Nancy Elder

*Treasurer*

Paul Christiansen II

*Secretary*

Ray Elder

*Historian*

Dick Retrum (*in Memoriam*)

*Immediate Past President*

*A list of all committees and  
committee chairs is available at  
NSDKC.org*

## Newsletter Production

Ross Marshall, *Editor*

Norman Besheer, *Proof Reader*

## Administrative Staff

Nancy Elder, *Administrator*

## Contact Information

Phone: 816-278-8929

Email: [admin@NSDKC.org](mailto:admin@NSDKC.org)

**NSDKC.org**

## NEW Mailing address:

PO Box 25513

Kansas City MO 64119-0813

## MISSION

The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City, Inc. is dedicated to the historic preservation of the unique and rich heritage of the greater Kansas City metropolitan area, both in Missouri and Kansas, through advocacy, education and restoration. It also seeks to preserve and maintain archives of historical interest relating to the development of the Kansas City region and to recognize individuals who have resided therein and contributed to such development.



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## EDWIN (Ed) EILERT

During 2010, Ed was elected to serve as Johnson County Commission Chairman and re-elected in 2014. He served as Overland Park Mayor, 1981-2005. This highly respected community leader has a strong passion for the commitment to support education and economic development.

Please take a moment and read the quotes of those who have witnessed the integrity of Ed Eilert.

- “Brandon Koenig... *“Johnson County is the economic engine of Kansas City not by accident, but due to the sound leadership of Chairman Ed Eilert. Ed brings managerial expertise and business acumen to the job of running the most populous county in the KC metro area. He’s seasoned, tough, and forward-thinking with the visionary leadership to ensure we maintain a high quality of life and continue to attract new residents and businesses for years to come.”*
- “Suzie Gibbs... *“When I have a question/concern/problem and I contact Ed, he responds immediately either with an answer or investigates the situation and resolves the problem. This is leadership!”*
- “Gary Hicks, Past President NSDKC... *“Ed puts integrity far above politics and far above the interest of personal relationships. I appreciate the man’s character and I appreciate his vision for our region.”*

## GENERAL RICHARD BOWMAN MYERS (Retired)

General Richard Myers became the 15th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on October 1, 2001. In this capacity, he served as the principal military advisor to the President, the Secretary of Defense and the National Security Council during the earliest stages of the War on Terror, including planning and execution of the 2002 invasion of Iraq. He replaced retiring General Hugh Shelton.

Retired General Merrill McPeak made the following comment regarding Myers:

- “*Myers’ preparation from day one has been to use his imagination, and that’s what’s required here. General Myers was more of a Gary Cooper than a John Wayne.*

General Myers retired from active military duty, September 30, 2005.

On April 14, 2016, Richard Myers was selected as the interim President of Kansas State University. On November 15, 2016, the Board of Regents removed his interim title and announced Myers would become the University’s 14th President.

While he enjoys music, plays the saxophone, golf and tennis, he is best known in the media for his penchant for Harley-Davidsons and repairing beat-up classic cars.

The OKC Gala is scheduled to be held at the Overland Park Convention Center (above) at 6000 College Blvd. just south of I-435. It offers convenient access, ample parking and sufficient interior space to ensure the health and safety of all who attend.

Please plan to attend our NSDKC OKC Gala on November 9, 2021 and meet these two extraordinary men.

### NEW MEMBERS

**Veronica Caine**  
**Sally Smart**  
**Bob & Janie Denzel**



Gala at the Overland Park Convention Center



Stay at the Sheraton Hotel in Overland Park

For out of town guests for The Native Sons and Daughters OKC event, we recommend the Sheraton Hotel Convention Center, 6100 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS. This hotel is next door east of the Overland Park Convention Center, has free parking (as does the Convention Center for the event). Their telephone number is 913-234-2100 for reservations. Rates will vary from \$130.00 to \$170.00 for 2 persons, plus appropriate taxes and fees. It will be necessary that individuals make their own reservations.

# Annual Membership and Board Meetings Held October 20

**A**fter a nice dinner at Hereford House in Leawood, KS, President Linn Mills called our annual Membership Meeting to order at about 7:15 p.m. Twenty three NSDKC members were present.

Most of the attendees are shown in the picture at right being addressed by President Linn who is standing at the center.

Treasurer Nancy Elder stated that we have 129 current memberships which includes 95 who are couples.

Linn called for the attendees to re-elect the five Board members whose terms are nearing completion, which we did. They are Joe Vaughan, Nancy Elder, Jim Flanagan IV, Karl Roscoe and Paul Christiansen II.

Linn mentioned that we are planning to have more events in 2022, maybe monthly, now that the Pandemic is beginning to get better.

At 8:00, President Linn Mills adjourned the Membership meeting and called the Annual Board of Directors meeting to order.

One of the key actions by the Board was to elect NSDKC Officers for 2022. Left to right, at right, are:

**Paul Christiansen II — Secretary**  
**Christy Chester — 2nd Vice President**  
**Linn Mills (she is finishing her term as President)**  
**John Dunnewind — 1st Vice President**  
**Nancy Elder — Treasurer**  
**Karl Roscoe, Sr. — President**  
**Ray Elder — Historian**



**Annual Membership Meeting**



**NSDKC Officers for 2022**

The Board of Directors Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

## Two New 2021 Awards Presented by NSDKC



**A**wards were presented at the NSDKC Board Meeting on May 19, 2021 by our Awards Committee chaired by Joe Vaughan. The two following recipients were unable to attend.

Our James Anderson Historic Preservation Award was presented at left to Chester C. Owens Jr. on June 7 at Chester's house. Mr. Owens has a long record of civic involvement in Kansas City, Kansas and our region that spans six decades.

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◀ (l-r) Joe Vaughan, Chester C. Owens Jr. and Linn Mills



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Our Special Recognition Award was presented above to Anna Marie Tuter at the Kansas City Museum on October 6, 2021. Tuter is executive director of the newly restored and renovated Kansas City Museum, located at 3218 Gladstone Boulevard. The Museum is owned and operated by the City of Kansas City, Missouri.

(l-r) Ray Elder, Linn Mills, Anna Marie Tuter and Nancy Elder ➔



## Kansas City Missouri Bicentennial Celebration Held at the NEW Francois Chouteau & Native American Heritage Fountain

A special Missouri Bicentennial celebration was held on Saturday, July 24, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the NEW Francois Chouteau & Native American Heritage Fountain at 3904 NE Chouteau Trafficway, Kansas City, MO. A large crowd of perhaps 200 people attended, not only to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of Missouri's statehood (August 10, 1821), but to dedicate the very impressive Heritage Fountain park.

<https://chouteaufountain.org/>

The celebration was supported by the City of Kansas City, KC Parks, Northland Neighborhoods Inc., and Missouri's Bicentennial Committee.

Pictured above is the Celebration's central area including one of the many information tents, the stone platform with three figures on top and at the far right is the covered stage where much of the entertain-

ment took place.

Numerous info tables and tents were active displaying Osage Indian artifacts, fur trapping, puppetry, and information by other KC area and MO State historical preservation and conservation organizations. Food trucks were available, and children activities, artists, and other activities were ongoing, as well as information tables sponsored by KC Parks and Recreation.

**Excellent music activities included a Cajun fiddler, a hammer dulcimer, and Native singing and dancing performed by the Osage Nation. The KC Moliere performed the world premier of Philip Blue Owl Hooser's one-act play..... Tartuffenthrope!**



**(it was very entertaining!)**

In conjunction with this landmark commemoration was the 30-min. Missouri Bicentennial program which included brief remarks by area elected officials, community leaders, and others. The M/C of the programs was retired Kansas City Parks and Recre-

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ation Director Mark McHenry. One of the featured speakers was KCAHTA's President Gary L. Hicks.

Gary (at right), in his capacity as 2010 President of The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City, awarded its distinguished Lee I. Pickering Award to Ms. Dana Nelson, the widow of Mr. R. Keith Nelson who recently passed away. It was Mr. Nelson's vision of over 10 years ago that Kansas City should plan and erect a monument in commemoration of Missouri's 200th Anniversary on August 10, 2021!

**Note:** *Missouri was acquired as part of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase and named for the Native Americans who originally inhabited the land.*

Keith themed the monument to include the French pioneer Francois Chouteau, the widely acknowledged Founding Father of Kansas City, Chouteau established the area's first fur trading post in 1819, located on the north side of the nearby Missouri River. Included in Keith's theme is the influence of the Native American Indian, particularly the Osage, who occupied this region during the period Chouteau had his trading post.

Over the years, Keith fundamentally led the project's design, construction, and funding activities. A few years ago, NSDKC presented a \$15,000 Sponsorship Grant to Keith. Phase 2 of the project shall include water features depicting a fountain and the Missouri River, to further enhance the story of the bronze figures of Chouteau and native Osages standing on the bluff!

At the close of the dedication program was the unveiling of the 4th bronze statue (at right) being featured at the Fountain. The Osage 'Hunter' is stalking a bronze beaver hiding within a nearby log just in front of the camera!

This was a very well planned event concerning key historical events in Kansas City's history!

Although a VERY hot day, it was fun for ALL!



KCAHTA's President Gary L. Hicks



The Osage 'Hunter' Statue

## IMPORTANT: NSDKC MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS!



Fellow NSDKC members, you are reminded that January 1, 2022 will be the date to renew your membership in our organization. So that we can get back to as much "normal" activities as possible, our Program Committee plans to have an **event every month**, most of which will be an inside event

if the weather is less than desirable.

Dues are \$35.00 for individuals and \$50.00 for couples. The notice of renewal will be coming out in late December with instructions and links to PayPal for payment, so watch for it. You can pay in December if you like, as our membership dues are tax

deductible — NSDKC is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

We also encourage members to sponsor a family member or friend to membership. The membership application is on The Native Sons and Daughters webpage [nsdkc.org](http://nsdkc.org).