



NEWS



SPRING 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.

Our OKC Gala Will Be Held On November 9, 2021

After last year's hiatus, The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City will host the Outstanding Kansas Citian Gala on November 9, 2021. Honorees Mr. Ed Eilert and Mr. Richard Myers will be recognized for their years of leadership and service to our city and our nation.

The Overland Park Convention Center, our new location for the Gala, offers convenient access, ample parking and sufficient interior space to ensure the health and safety of all who attend.

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

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Marker Dedication Heritage Of Johnson County, Kansas

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 starting promptly at 5:30 p.m.

Plus a 6:00 p.m. Reception in the adjacent Arts and Heritage Museum, 8788 Metcalf Avenue, Overland Park, Kansas.

For planning purposes registration is required **ASAP** at www.nsdkc.org for one of the two following options:

1. For the Dedication only
2. For both the Dedication and Reception

Please wear your face masks and maintain social distancing!

Plan to attend this exciting NSDKC event honoring our 2021 Outstanding Kansas Citians Ed Eilert and Richard Myers who will be attending and offering remarks!

This will be the first post-mounted marker dedicated in Johnson County by The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City!

We look forward to your attendance at this important event!



Dear members:

Kansas City is famous for great steaks, barbecue and jazz. The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City organization is known for its dedication to preserving the Kansas City unique and rich metropolitan heritage.

On March 12, 2021, NSDKC dedicated its 56th historical marker to honor the Kansas City Firefighters. Several state and city officials were on hand to witness this time in history. See page three and four of this newsletter.

Plan to join NSDKC members and others on April 21, 2021, for the 57th marker dedication and reception in Johnson County to recognize Johnson County Kansas Heritage. This event will take place at the Arts and Heritage Museum, commencing at 5:30 p.m. See page one.

This event will also recognize our 2021 Outstanding Kansas Citians, Ed Eilert, Chairman of the Johnson County, Kansas Board of County Commissioners and Kansas State University President, Retired General Richard Myers, former Chair of the United States Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff. These two distinguished men will receive recognition at the OKC Gala on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at the Overland Park Convention Center.

Spring is here, and temperatures are allowing many to take the time to explore our beloved Kansas City. Please take the opportunity to visit the NSDKC Monument located in Ilus Davis Park at 10th and Oak Streets. Note, if you have not ordered an inscription for your family, now is the time! See page five in this newsletter for details on how to order an inscription.

CALENDAR

April 21, 5:30 p.m.
Johnson County Marker Dedication
November 9th, 2021
Outstanding Kansas Citian Gala

MEMORIALS

Theodore Seligson
NSDKC past president 1989
Judge Thomas E. Sims
NSDKC past president 2008
Robert A. Closser, Jr.
NSDKC former Board Member



Linn Mills
2021 President

As we celebrate The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City's 89th year, I want to express my gratitude to the NSDKC Board of Directors for volunteering to help keep our organization strong.

I will end this message with one of my favorite quotes from Helen Keller. "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched.... they must be felt with heart."



Linn Mills
NSDKC President



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

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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.



2021 is the 200th Anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail

The Santa Fe Trail that runs from the middle of Missouri to Santa Fe was first opened in 1821 by William Becknell. He needed to pay off some debts, so he and five other men loaded some packhorses with trade goods and headed west from Franklin, a village just across the Missouri River north of Boonville, Missouri. Old Franklin has disappeared, but markers are there.

This expedition occurred only weeks following Mexico's separation from Spain's 300-year rule over them. The Santa Fe Trail thus became the primary trade route between the new nation of Mexico and the United States, in both directions.

They crossed the Missouri River nearby at today's Arrow Rock and traveled along the south edge of the river to Fort Osage. From there they went west-southwest through what today is Independence and Kansas City and crossed the Missouri border at about 79th and State Line Road. From there, they went southwest toward Santa Fe. A lot of signs are now along the later routes in our area.

Missouri was made a state in 1821 and Mexico had won its independence from Spain. Traders had previously been arrested by Spain, but now Mexico was eager to welcome traders. Becknell traded his goods and returned home with money to pay debts. The Santa Fe Trail began!

Following a two-year planning and photographic digitization effort, in partnership with the *Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association*, (kcahta@sbcglobal.net), the Kansas Historical Society (KSHS) has recently completed one of its largest projects of digital imaging of maps!

This project involved the photographic digitization of 262 U.S.G.S. Topographic Quadrangle Maps (Quads) contained in the *Lee and Dorothy Kroh Collection* of the archives of KCAHTA, maintained at the Mabee Learning Commons at MidAmerica Nazarene University in Olathe, KS.

The digitized Quads include the Santa Fe Trail between Franklin and Santa Fe, plus other trails. The Quads are now available online at <https://www.kansasmemory.org/category/14145>).



NSDKC Firefighters Marker Dedicated March 12



At left, NSDKC Administrator and Past-President Nancy Elder addresses the sizeable crowd.

Even though it was a rainy and chilly Friday afternoon on March 12, about 40 people showed up for a wonderful Historical Marker Dedication! We are indebted to the many KCMO Fire Department personnel as well as City officials that attended.

The Dedication was also a tribute to honor a rather lengthy effort by our longtime leader and career firefighter Ray Elder to bring this project to fruition. And it was successful!

The site is just west of 5th and Wyandotte on the north side of I-35 as it runs across just north of downtown Kansas City. It is the approximate site of the founding of the KCMO Fire Department in 1868.

In the right background of the site picture is not only a fire engine, but also the huge colorful picture on the side of a building of the Lewis and Clark expedition landing at Kaw Point in 1803, a mile west



NSDKC President Linn Mills

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Local 42 International Association of Firefighters President Tim Dupin



(l-r) Tim Dupin, Nancy Elder, Ray Elder and Donna Lake after they removed the marker's blue veil



Missouri State Senator Ms. Lauren Arthur



KCMO City Councilwoman and NSDKC member Heather Hall



KCFD Assistant Fire Chief Jimmy Walker



KC Fire Department Fire Chief Ms. Donna Lake

⇒ **Continued from page 3**
of the site.

One of the reasons the Dedication worked out so well was that both the KC Fire Historical Society and Gary Hicks brought the two large white canopies which helped to shelter the attendees. In addition, as always, Gary brought his podium, microphone, speaker system and even the veil over the marker.

Ross Marshall was the M/C of the event. He opened the Dedication at 2:00 p.m. by welcoming everyone and

reading the NSDKC Mission Statement. He also mentioned that NSDKC now has 56 historical markers in place in the Kansas City area. A few of the early ones were wall plaques, but in the last 30 years they have been upright markers on posts like this one.

By this time, the rain had essentially stopped which delighted everyone!

Thanks to the work of Nancy Elder, we had seven guest speakers including herself. Ross introduced each one starting with NSDKC President Linn

Mills. Each one came to the podium as shown in all the pictures and spoke for a couple of minutes.

At about 2:25, Ross called up the four individuals who participated in the unveiling ceremony as shown in that picture. The marker has different text on both faces.

We want to extend a special thank you to Ray and Nancy Elder for all their work on both the marker and this Dedication Ceremony. Regardless of the weather, it was a great event and a very good turnout of attendees!



Looking north at our Monument with Federal Courthouse behind

The inscription setup and purchase process is simple:

Option 1: You may use the online process through the NSDKC website www.nsdkc.org/monument_inscription to layout your inscription order. Payment can be through one of the several online payment services offered.

Option 2: You may use a printed order form requested through admin@nsdkc.org. Payment by personal bank check or money order is accepted with Option 2.

With a whole year before us, what better gift to recognize an individual, family members, or your business with an inscription, out in plain sight, engraved in granite at our wonderful NSDKC Monument!

Springtime is a Good Time for NSDKC Monument Inscriptions

We have several members who have purchased Monument Inscriptions in the past year and with a couple more Inscription purchases, we will be able to have them all inscribed at one time!

In April of 2018, NSDKC dedicated its new Monument located in Ilus Davis Park at 10th and Oak, KCMO. This Monument was designed, built, and dedicated to all who have placed their hands on the history and heritage of our Greater Kansas City area. NSDKC is grateful for our area philanthropists who, through their generosity, made this half-million dollar project possible!

As the picture shows, in addition to its Star-shaped Tower, one of the Monument's primary elements is its 30 foot diameter, granite paved plaza area. This area allows for inscriptions by individuals and businesses to be engraved representing the pride of being Kansas Citians; to honor family members or membership within NSDKC! To date, nearly 60 such personalized inscriptions have been engraved in the plaza area!

Prior to the construction of the granite paved plaza area, all inscriptions were engraved in their shop by the subcontractor Frisbee Monuments. Following the Monument's construction, inscriptions on the large granite pavers are now done in the field with the same quality and expertise as done in the shop. As approved by the NSDKC Board, the Monument Committee established five various pricing levels for inscriptions below: (See the picture below)

➔ Level 1 \$250-

1" Text. Text Zone Size: 6" x 9", 2 rows, 13 characters per row max.

➔ Level 2 \$500-

1" Text. Text Zone Size: 12" x 18", 4 rows, 24 characters per row max.

➔ Level 3 \$1,000-

1 1/4" Text. Text Zone Size: 12" x 27", 5 rows, 31 characters per row max.

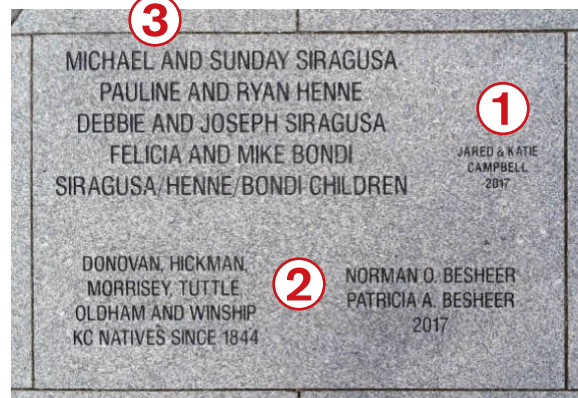
➔ Level 4 \$5,000-

1 1/2" Text. Text Zone Size: 18" x 27", 5 rows, 25 characters per row max.

➔ Level 5 \$10,000-

1 3/4" Text. Text Zone Size: 24" x 36", 6 rows, 30 characters per row max.

Note: Since the Monument plaza area does not use standard individual 'red' bricks, designated areas sizes (or zones) have been applied to each Level. The larger the zone size, the larger the text size, and more rows of text are made available for the engraving!



Level #3 at top
Level #2 at bottom
Level #1 at upper right

If you have yet to visit the monument you are in for a rewarding experience!

Go see it!