



NEWS

SPRING 2020

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 choose Outstanding Kansas Citians for 2020

The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City is pleased to announce the selection of its Outstanding Kansas Citians for 2020. This year the honor will go to two outstanding and accomplished leaders from Johnson County: Edward 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.

Edward (Ed) Eilert

Ed Eilert was raised in the small Kansas farming community of Furley, located northeast of Wichita. He attended Emporia State University receiving a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a master's degree in Business Education. Eilert has been a resident of Overland Park since 1965 and has devoted most of his adult life to public service, initially on the City of Overland Park City Council (1977-1981), then as Overland Park Mayor for 24 years between 1981-2005. Eilert served on the Board of Johnson County Commissioners, District 4, Overland Park from 2006-2010, and was elected to serve as Chairman of the Board of Johnson County Commissioners and re-elected in 2014.

Ed's career started as a high school business teacher and evolved into being a distinguished professional financial advisor. Eilert serves, both locally and nationally, on the Board of Directors of numerous private and public sector associations and businesses. Eilert serves on many Kansas City area Commissions including the Mid-America Regional Council. His work on regional projects include campaigning for the first bi-state sales tax (KS-MO) that financed the reconstruction of Kansas City's Union Station in the late 1990s.

This leader has received many accolades and awards including being honored with the 2018 Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Award, 2017 Overland Park Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement, Excellence in



Ed Eilert



General Richard Myers

Local Government, and Distinguished Alumni Award from Emporia State University. Eilert is a member of the Overland Park South Rotary Club and is a Paul Harris Fellow. In 2005, the U.S. House of Representatives through official resolution (H.R. 524) recognized Eilert for his years of public service to Overland Park, and dedicated the Blue Valley Post Office of Overland Park in his honor.

Eilert and his wife Jan have three children.

Retired Air Force General Richard B. Myers

Richard Myers was born in Kansas City, Missouri. In 1960 he graduated from Shawnee Mission High School (today's Shawnee Mission North) in 1960. Myers graduated from Kansas State University with a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering in 1965, and was commissioned by Detachment 270 of the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps at KSU. Myers entered the Air Force in 1965 through the Reserve Officer Training Corps Program. He received pilot training from 1965 to 1966 at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma.

Myers is a command pilot with more than 4100 flying hours in a T-33 Shooting Star, C-37, C-21, F-4 Phantom II, F-15 Eagle and F-16 Fighting Falcon, including 600 combat hours in the F-4, and served our Country during the Vietnam War and Iraq War. Myers graduated from Auburn University with a Master of Business Administration in 1977.

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2020 President's Message

Dear members:

Needless to say, the coronavirus has changed our lives. These are difficult times in too many ways. The challenges being exerted on our families, friends and institutions are painful. Not knowing what to expect, when will shelter in place end, and when can we go back to work, to church and to various kinds of service, is frustrating.

The NSDKC Board of Directors and Outstanding Kansas Citian Committee have not been able to meet in February or March. It's likely that will continue another month or two.

Our previously planned social programs have all been put on hold.

However, conference phone calls are in the works to communicate about our November 4 Outstanding Kansas Citian Gala.

On a positive note, you may have discovered there has been more time to get some things done that you have put off for many years. Cleaning and organizing the garage or basement storage areas, catching up on reading, cooking more interesting meals, staying in contact with friends, or just enjoying more time with your spouse, all have value.

We will get through this unusual time in our lives. Stay safe and keep everyone in your prayers.

Sincerely,
Richard Retrum
2020 NSDKC President



Dick Retrum
2020 President



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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.



Left: At right is John Dunnewind receiving our Lee I. Pickering Award for Excellence on January 8 from John Hess, Jr., member of the Awards Committee. Dunnewind has worked very hard for many years on our bylaws and procedures.



MEMORIALS: Howard Hendricks

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Myers attended the Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama; the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania; and the Program for Senior Executives in National and International Security at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

General Richard Myers held many Commands including Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, North American Aerospace Defense Command, U.S. Space Command, Air Force Space Command, Pacific Air Forces and Fifth Air Force.

Myers was the acting Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the September 11, 2001 terror attacks on the United States of America. Myers has received 47 military awards and decorations. He retired from military service on September 30, 2005.

On November 9, 2005, Myers was presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President George W. Bush for distinguished service as Chair of the Military Joint Chiefs of Staff and many years of honorable military service to our nation.

On April 14, 2016, Myers was selected as interim president of Kansas State University. On November 15, 2016, the KSU Board of Regents announced Myers as the university's president. The university has named the Military Science Building Gen. Richard B. Myers Hall, in honor of his service and dedication.

General Myers and his wife Mary Jo have two daughters and a son.

SAVE-THE-DATE cards will be mailed later, followed soon by formal invitations to attend The Native Sons and Daughters 2020 Outstanding Kansas City Gala on Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at the Overland Park Convention Center to honor Outstanding Kansas Citians, Edward Eilert and General Richard Myers. This will prove to be an extraordinary event!

Francois Chouteau & Native American Heritage Fountain ceremonial groundbreaking held November 15, 2019



On Friday, November 15, 2019 at 10:00 a.m., more than 100 community members, public officials and representatives of the Osage and Kaw nations came together at the site for a ceremonial groundbreaking of a project partly funded by NSDKC. (see below)

We saw a rendering of the project as shown above, showing the sculptures below, while a waterfall spills into a stream below where a walkway displays plaques and historic markers. The scene of the monument depicts the banks of the Missouri river and its bluffs, with water flowing over the bluffs and into a "river" along the base.



The bronze statues that will be at the site are being sculpted by Kwan Wu, Kansas City area resident and world renowned sculptor.

At left is three heroic-sized bronze statues depicting a trade encounter between Chouteau and two Native Americans.

On page four are two sculptures; the Francois Chouteau sculpture being "unveiled" on March 6, 2019, by the KCMO Parks and Recreation Department

in the rotunda of the City Hall of Kansas City Missouri plus a mold of a native hunter which will be situated apart from the trader sculptures.

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Above: The bronze statues that will be at the fountain. The top one hasn't been cast yet.

At top right is NSKDC member Keith Nelson who has been a leader for 10 years in the efforts to create this Fountain in the Northland.



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The project site, some 7000 square feet, is located nearly two miles north of the Missouri River on the west side of Chouteau Parkway, south of 1-35 and north of Parvin Road, recreating the original Chouteau trading post site near the river bluffs at the confluence of Rock Creek and the Missouri River. The original Chouteau Trading Post was built in 1821 by Francois Chouteau, which was the beginning of Kansas City. The post was between the present-day sites of Harrah's Casino and Cerner Corporation in North Kansas City.

The post was established to promote trade between Native Americans and their furs, with the Americans for European goods. Following flooding of the Missouri river in 1826, the post was relocated to the south side (right bank) of the river over near the Bond Bridge, and Kansas City developed from there. Francois is considered the Founding Father of Kansas City!

At the top is NSKDC member Keith Nelson who, with the North Bennington Neighborhood Association, has been a leader for 10 years in the efforts to create this Fountain in the Northland of Kansas City. In January 2019, 2010 NSDKC President Gary Hicks presented to the NSDKC Board of Directors the opportunity to be a funding partner in the Fountain project. Following financial review and further study by the Board, NSDKC approved an amount of \$15,000 distributed to the project over a 3-year period. This amount equals approximately 25% of the cost of one of the four single bronze sculptures planned for the Fountain!

The estimated total project cost is \$1,600,000, which includes an additional 25 percent endowment fee required by the City for future maintenance.

The project is coordinated through the KCMO Parks and Recreation Department and funded through the City of Fountains Foundation, Inc. The City of Fountains Foundation, Inc has registered 200 fountains and associated projects in the metropolitan area, including 46 considered as "major". Only two of those are located in the Northland: The Francois Chouteau & Native American Heritage Fountain joins the Children's Fountain and the Northland Fountain as a noted part of the inventory.

With the 200th anniversary in 2021 of both the founding of the State of Missouri and the establishment of the Chouteau fur trading post, and the 200th anniversary in 2022 of Clay County's founding, the Francois Chouteau & Native American Heritage Fountain remains tentatively on schedule to be a part of commemorating these two landmark dates for the greater Kansas City region and the State of Missouri.

NSDKC historic markers now updated on our website

Last fall, thanks to the expertise of our longtime member Frank McMillian, our website has been updated to show every marker that NSDKC has ever placed!

Just go to our website NSDKC.org and click on markers and the listings will show up with pictures similar to those below. In fact, they will be somewhat larger than what shows in this newsletter and you will be able to read the text. If a different text is on the backside of a post marker, you will also see that picture.

Listed are the 17 plaques that are mostly mounted on walls or ground slabs, plus 36 markers on a single post similar (except for #17 Rockwell Lane) to this marker at the Truman Sports Complex. The plaques were placed up to 2001 and at that date, the Native Sons of Kansas City, as we were known then, started placing the upright markers on a single post. Note the Albert G. Boone Store plaque below at Westport Road and Pennsylvania in the heart of Westport, which was placed in 1999 to replace the previous plaque which had some inaccuracies in it.

Also listed in black on the website are 12 markers, mostly plaques that may or may not have existed at one time, many of them supposedly in partnership with other organizations. Our archives have listed each of them, but little other information is available.

Each of the marker listings has not only the date it was placed, but also their address so you can easily find them and observe the surrounding area.

The website information and pictures were the result of a couple of years of research and field work by two of our past presidents Gary Hicks and Ross Marshall. We are thankful that several decades ago, three of our earlier members, James Anderson, Anamarie Mura and Chuck Cameron, assembled a lot of the information that was preserved in our archives.

So, go to our website and enjoy!



Above and right: The Truman Sports Complex marker, placed in 2016.

Below: The Albert G. Boone Store plaque placed for the second time in 1999.

