



# NEWS



SUMMER 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 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 nation.



Pictured above is Overland Park Convention Center, which will be our location for the Gala. It is 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.

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.

## Johnson County Arts And Heritage Center Museum Marker Dedicated April 21



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

**A**bove is the new marker installed last October on the south side of Johnson County Arts and Heritage Center Museum by The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City. This is the 40th upright marker NSDKC has installed in the Greater Kansas City area in recent decades, but our first in Johnson County!

Because of the Pandemic, NSDKC was not able to dedicate it until the evening of April 21 at 5:30.

**Eilert** and **Myers** will be honored as NSDKC's 2021 Outstanding Kansas Citians at a Gala on November 9 at Overland Park Convention Center.

After the unveiling of the marker, the crowd numbering over 80 people went into the Museum for the dedication. Normally NSDKC dedicates markers outside, but because of the cold weather we went inside to a very nice assembly room.

The crowd was seated in spaced-out chairs in four well-separated rows.

Both **Susan** and **Mary**, as part of their remarks, presented wonderful videos of the Center, its history and the large displays and historical information that are available to visitors.

Formerly the King Louie Center, the facility

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Please plan to attend.  
More details will follow!





## Dear members:

Summer is here, and Kansas Citians are leaving their homes and enjoying our beautiful City and planning travel to see family and friends. Unfortunately, due to the high cost of travel, many are electing to stay close to home. With this said, I hope you will take the opportunity to visit our famous landmarks and take in the rich history of the Kansas City Metro Area.

This year NSDKC held three marker dedications. On June 30, despite a stormy day, the 58th Marker dedication took place recognizing the Kansas City Board of Trade. I want to express my deep appreciation to NSDKC Past Presidents **Ross Marshall, Gary Hicks, and Steve Noll** for the success of this event.

Time to circle your calendar and plan to attend Missouri's Bicentennial Celebration on Saturday, July 24, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Francois Chouteau & Native American Heritage Fountain. During this event, NSDKC will honor the late **Keith Nelson** by posthumously presenting the Lee I. Pickering Award for **Keith's** outstanding commitment to completing the Francois Chouteau & Native American Heritage Fountain.

This Summer Newsletter also contains information relating to the Santa Fe Trail 200th Anniversary and the upcoming NSDKC Gala honoring **Ed Eilert, Chairman of the Johnson County, Kansas Board of County Commissioners, and Kansas State University President, Retired General Richard Myers.**

On May 19th, NSDKC presented **Chester Owens**, a well-known KC Metro historian, with the 2020 James Anderson Historical Award and **Anna Marie Tintera**, Executive Director of the Kansas City Museum, with the 2020 Special Recognition Award.

In ending, I will quote our James Anderson Historic Award winner, **Chester Owens**. "It is my strong belief that keeping history alive is not only important but is an obligation that acknowledges the blood, sweat, tears and unprecedented sacrifices of those who came before us."



**Linn Mills**  
2021 President

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**Linn Mills**  
NSDKC President



## OFFICERS & STAFF

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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.





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was totally remodeled to become the Johnson County Arts and Heritage Center, opening in 2017.

At right is (l-r) our Past President **Gary Hicks**; at center is **Richard Myers**, Kansas State University President and retired U.S.A.F. General and former Chair of U.S. Military's Joint Chiefs of Staff. He was also a graduate of Shawnee Mission (North) High School. At right is Johnson County Board of Commissioners Chair **Ed Eilert**.

The speakers finished about 6:30 and people were able to tour the museum on their own.

In order to maximize attendees, **Gary Hicks** led the effort to invite the members of several other organizations such as KCAHTA, Trails Head Chapter of OCTA, Overland Park Historical Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, plus others.

Recognition needs to be extended especially to **Gary** and also to **Ross Marshall**, both of whom are past presidents of The Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City. This event was unusually difficult to coordinate due to the County regulations during this Pandemic.

Thanks also to Director **Mary MacMurray**, the event held inside was exceptionally successful in spite of the weather outside being chilly.



**Curt Skoog**



**Florent Wagner**



**Chair Ed Eilert**



**General Richard Myers**



**Susan Mong**



**Mary MacMurray**

### The speakers, in addition to Ed Eilert and Richard Myers were:

- **Linn Mills**, 2021 NSDKC President
- **Curt Skoog**, Overland Park Council President
- **Florent Wagner**, Vice-President of Overland Park Historical Society, and a historian
- **Susan Mong**, Superintendent of Culture, Johnson County Parks and Recreation District
- **Mary MacMurray**, Director of the Johnson County Arts and Heritage Center





# Board Of Trade Marker Dedication Held June 30



**Y**es, the rain persisted all morning, just as it had for the whole previous week, but we were able to complete the dedication of the Kansas City Board of Trade marker! Thanks to the resourcefulness of **Phil Taggart**, the manager of the building, a very nice area where we could meet was made available in their sizeable restaurant.

Everyone was comfortably seated and we were able to start the ceremony inside about 11:15 with 18 people in attendance!

**Ross Marshall**, our Past President and chair of the markers committee welcomed everyone and reviewed our NSDKC mission statement that calls for us to preserve the history and heritage of Greater Kansas City. One of the ways we do that is to install and dedicate historical markers. We now have 58 upright markers and plaques that have been installed throughout our area.

Since our President **Linn Mills** was on a long trip, our Vice President **John Dunnewind** spoke to us about the work that NSDKC does in many ways.

The next speaker was Past President **Steve Noll**

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**Vice President  
John Dunnewind**

## CALENDAR

### Annual Membership and Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 20  
Hereford House  
6:00 PM Dinner, Meeting to Follow

### Outstanding Kansas Citian

Tuesday, November 9  
Overland Park Convention Center  
Reception/Silent Auction 5:30 PM  
Dinner and Awards, 6:30 PM

### Holiday Brunch

Saturday, December 11  
Indian Hills Country Club  
Reception 11:30, Brunch at Noon

## MEMORIALS

**Robert Closser, Jr.**  
**R. Keith Nelson**





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who was responsible for this marker to exist. He has a personal high regard for the importance of the Board of Trade in Kansas City's past and donated the money to pay for the marker. **Good for you Steve!**

Next was **Walt Vernon**, who was Board of Trade Vice President, Secretary, and Chief Administrative Officer. He spoke about the history of the Kansas City Board of Trade that lasted for over 150 years and went out of business in 2013. Walt was a great helper in developing the text material on the marker.

The last speaker was **Phil Taggart**, Operations Manager and Senior Project Manager for Area Real Estate Advisors which now occupies the former Board of Trade building. Phil was very supportive and helpful throughout this project and even personally dug the hole himself for the marker post!

Normally the last segment of a marker dedication is to unveil the marker, but that was not possible this time. The marker was installed at 49th and Main next to the building, but just slightly out of our sight. Besides that, it was raining!



**Administrator Nancy Elder**



**Past President Steve Noll**



**Walt Vernon  
(Past B. O. T. officer)**



**Phil Taggart  
(Building Manager)**

## NSDKC MEMBERSHIPS

Membership in The Native Sons & Daughters of Greater Kansas City is a very important thing. Dues are \$35.00 per year for individuals and \$50.00 for couples. It is still not too late to pay your dues for 2021.

The support paying your dues gives to the Organization is recognized in several ways: special events for members only, the receipt of notices of things of interest, events, the quarterly NSDKC newsletter, and the opportunity to participate at the level you desire.

The year of 2020 was a lost year for most of us because of restrictions and recommendations for health reasons.

It was necessary to cancel the events we look forward to the meetings at the NSDKC monument, the Meet and Greet, (where we bring friends and neighbors who might become interested in being members), the possibility of a bus tour to a historic site, the Annual Membership Meeting and the very special Holiday Brunch. Because these restrictions and recommendations continued into 2021, we have not been able to get together.

The Board of Directors and Events Chair are working hard to plan events for the balance of the year. The Membership Committee wants very much for you to be included.

### NEW MEMBERS

**Lila Aamodt  
Veronica Caine**



Please go to the **www.nsdkc.org** website, scroll to the right for the drop-down menu for membership, complete the renewal and pay by PayPal, or send a check to NSDKC, P. O. Box 25513, Kansas City, MO 64119-0813. It is also recommended that current members sponsor someone to become a member. The on-line application and procedure are shown in the same location on the website.

**If you have any questions, please contact [admin@nsdkc.org](mailto:admin@nsdkc.org). Nancy Elder, NSDKC Administrator**