



Terry E. Branstad
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Kim Reynolds
LT. GOVERNOR

June 26, 2015

Nomination for "Sages over 70"

I write to recommend Gary Kirke to receive this year's "Sages over 70" award by dsm Magazine. I have had the honor of knowing and working with Gary since my first term in office three decades ago. Since that time, I have seen Gary become the successful businessman and thoughtful citizen he is today. His entrepreneurial spirit reaches across business sectors and has helped move our state forward in many ways.

At the young age of eleven, Gary had a dream to own a vendor stand at the Iowa State Fair. Even as a child, Gary had the wisdom and drive to aim for greatness. Later, he would become one of the first people in the nation to mass-market insurance, a trend that defines the industry today. In addition to insurance, Gary has also thrived in the financial, medical, and entertainment sectors.

A long-time champion of public service, Mr. Kirke advocates community involvement and civic contributions. He has been entrusted to serve on such high-profile boards and committees as the Grow Iowa Values Board and the Iowa Future Growth Committee. Most recently, I conferred on Mr. Kirke the title of Honorary Colonel in recognition of his strong leadership and respect within the community.

Gary deserves the title of "Sage over 70" because he is just that, a sage. He not only invests in the community around him through successful business ventures, but also through his willingness to share his wisdom with others. He is the kind of person you can call when you are in need, and count on him to help. It is for these reasons that I nominate Gary Kirke for dsm Magazine's 2015 "Sages over 70."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Terry E. Branstad", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Terry E. Branstad
Governor of Iowa