

July 16, 2013

To the 'Sages Over 70' Selection Committee;

Please consider Mr. Donald Brush, former Urbandale Mayor and retired Vice President of Wells Fargo Private Client Services, for this great honor. Allow me to share my thoughts as to why he fits the criteria:

Don Brush served as the Mayor and as a Council Member of the city of Urbandale for many years. Under his leadership, there was much success in developing regional partnerships and long-range planning for Central Iowa. It was Don's integrity and ability to create win-win scenarios for all involved that paved the way for master planning in transit and solid waste issues. These are two areas that don't always garner a lot of front-page coverage, but Don knew infrastructure was the key for growth and quality of life for metro area, and made it a priority to serve on the Board of Directors for both the Des Moines Metropolitan Planning Organization and Metro Waste Authority.

I work with elected officials every day. Leaders like Don understand that cultivating new leaders is one of the greatest legacies a person can leave. He served as a mentor for me and many of my employees over the years at Metro Waste Authority, and he has mentored many residents within his community through the development of one of the best civic leadership programs in the state. He shines most as he quietly encourages those around him to carry on the torch to do great things for the future.

One of the most important things Don instills in those around him is the need for continuous learning. As I worked with him at MWA, both as a Board member and the Chair of the Board, he was always looking for continuous improvement, the latest technology or organizational development strategies. Status quo is not a term used when thinking of Don.

There are many organizations that benefitted from this man. He was always proud to brag about staff accomplishments, making them feel as if they did it all, but in the wings was always Don – imagining the future, researching the possibilities, selling the ideas to his peers and relentlessly working to make it happen!

While I know he is not expecting this honor, he is a very deserving candidate.

Best regards,



Thomas B. Hadden III
Executive Director
Metro Waste Authority

