

GUEST COLUMN

Hoover: Creator gave us rights, not government

By John Hendrickson
Special to the Times

Herbert Hoover’s appreciation for the principles of the American founding was shaped from an early age.

He recalled that as a young boy his “first paid job” in West Branch, Iowa, was “picking potato bugs at one cent a hundred,” and his wages went to “secure firecrackers with which to commemorate properly the Declaration of Independence.”

Hoover described the American founding as the “American System.” He had a strong sense of American exceptionalism, and never tired of defending the “American System” and what he described as the “Ark of the Covenant” of our liberty.

“The founders of our republic under Divine

inspiration” established a “great political system,” which is “unique in the world,” argued Hoover. However, Hoover understood that principles of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were based upon heritage.

“God has blessed us with another wonderful word — heritage,” affirmed Hoover. Further, Hoover noted that the “great documents of that heritage” were “the Bible, the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution, within them alone can the safeguards of freedom survive.”

Both Christian faith and the English constitutional heritage were foundational.

“When our nation was founded, it drew its strength and being not only from great politi-

cal and social truths, but from spiritual convictions from a deep and abiding faith in Almighty God,” proclaimed Hoover.

In addition, he argued that it was this Christian foundation, which led to the “pronouncement of the dignity of individual men in the Declaration of Independence, that is, men are ‘endowed with certain unalienable rights’ upon which not even the government may infringe.” Hoover reminded Americans that their rights and liberties did not come from government, but from God.

“Our Founding Fathers did not invent the priceless boon of individual freedom and the respect for the dignity of men. That great gift to mankind sprang from the Creator and not from the govern-

ment,” stated Hoover.

Hoover argued that the Founders “knew well the centuries of struggle in which men had died fighting bitterly” for liberties. “Step by step they had been secured through the Magna Carta, the growth of the common law, the Petition of Rights, and the Declaration of Rights, until they reached the full flower in the new republic,” stated Hoover in describing the influence of England’s constitutional heritage.

In February 1933, President Hoover in a ceremony to lay the cornerstone of the National Archives building, stated that “this temple of our history will appropriately be one of the most beautiful buildings in America, an expression of the American soul.” Hoover was not just referring to

the architecture of the building, but the contents inside.

“Further, there will be aggregated here the most sacred documents of our history, the originals of the Declaration of Independence and of the Constitution of the United States,” noted Hoover.

In the cornerstone, Hoover placed copies of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, an American flag, among other items. The National Archive would not only preserve “all the other records that bind State to State and the hearts of all our people in an indissoluble union,” but also would “be one of the most durable, an expression of the American character.”

Hoover understood that no system of government or country could be per-

fected, but he argued that the United States could navigate and “solve our complex problems” by adhering to the principles of the founding.

“The bricks must come from the mold of religious faith, of justice, of integrity, of fidelity to the spirit of the Constitution. Any other mold is distorted; any other bricks are without straw,” stated Hoover.

On this 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence let’s follow Hoover’s wisdom and begin to rebuild our faith in and look to those sacred principles for national renewal. As Hoover stated the nation “really needs nothing more to revive again hope in a frustrated people.”

John Hendrickson serves as policy director for Iowans for Tax Relief Foundation.

82ND INDIVISIBLE GROUP

Midterm voting could overturn RoundUp ruling

Iowa is soaked in Roundup, the herbicide made by Bayer.

You probably have some in your garage, though if you bought it recently it may not contain the active ingredient glyphosate that was blessed by the Supreme Court this week in a ruling that revealed yet again who owns the extreme Supreme Court, who owns the Trump administration and who owns Iowa.

That ingredient though is still very much present in the commercial applications used on our corn and beans.

The 7-2 decision said that there is no need for

the product to have a state warning on it, because the EPA says it’s OK, Roundup is fine when used correctly, never mind that Bayer wrote the report that the EPA is using as evidence.

Yes, the paper was retracted by Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology on November 28th of last year because of the “lack of clarity regarding which parts of the article were authored by Monsanto employees.”

We’re soaking in it. 70% of the Roundup used in North America comes from a 454-acre plant in Muscatine that employs

400 workers and sits right on the Mississippi river.

This is a superfund site that allows Bayer to continue to operate as long as they pump enough groundwater to keep their pollutants “beneath the facility property.”

Food and Water Watch says that “regulators don’t know how much hazardous waste Monsanto has released in Muscatine.”

Just last year Iowans defeated the “Cancer Gag Act.” The bill was sponsored by Bayer-Monsanto, the Iowa Corn Growers Association, the Iowa Soybean Association and the Agribusiness Association to make pes-

ticide manufacturers immune from lawsuits related to the health effects of their products.

This even though the pesticide giant spent over 200K (that’s a record!) in lobbying money in our state since the bill was introduced, because Iowans did not want it.

Much of the money was used for advertising, but in years past Bayer-Monsanto bought themselves some Iowa Republican politicians like Governor Kim Reynolds (\$18,550) and Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig (\$19,500) based on state campaign data from 2002-2023. Even Bobby Kaufmann got a

couple grand.

Supreme Court justice Clarence Thomas worked for them for two years as a pesticide regulation attorney. There are 22 key officials in the Trump administration with ties to Bayer-Monsanto including the White House Chief of Staff Susan Wiles who was previously a partner in their lobbying firm.

Yes, Bayer-Monsanto is now a world power that essentially controls our food supply. Little wonder then that they got tired of trying to bend states like Iowa to their will and just used their influence to get a ruling

from the highest court in the land that will prevent anyone who gets cancer from Roundup or any other pesticide or herbicide from suing them.

Congress has the power to change this and you have the power to change Congress! Vote in the midterms!

The 82nd Indivisible promotes government accountability, quality public services, clean water and more in the 82nd Iowa House District. Columns are vetted by steering committee members: Suzan Erem, Barb Gerot, Michael Murphy, Jennifer Sotelo, and Phil Young. Connect at 82nd.Indivisible@gmail.com.

George

From Page 3

slavery to Japanese American internment camps to “get the job or lose your job” — hate, uncertainty, fear, and anger can get us to justify awful things.

But that’s why

freedom of speech and the press are so powerful — even when social media colludes to suppress the truth, everything from single voices to small newspapers can serve as burning candles in the Big Tech blackout. America can recover

from a collective face-plant.

Earlier, we mentioned the speed limit, theft and murder. One might recognize the latter two come right out of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20). And an argument can be made that the

speed limit falls under Commandment No. 5 (we’ll leave you to look that up, but think about who first taught you to drive).

And let’s not forget that the Big 10 includes a break to attend church and watch pro football.

You may like Jordan Pedersen’s 12 Rules, Stephen Covey’s Seven Habits, or even dropped food’s five-second rule. But none of them are nearly as catchy, or say so much in so few words to those of us suffering from short

attention spans.

And, we like round numbers.

Like 250.

Happy birthday to the United States, and let’s keep stoking the moral fire beneath this Great American Melting Pot.

ALL PUBLIC NOTICES CAN BE FOUND AT IOWAPUBLICNOTICES.COM

CC Payroll

PAY DATE 6/12/2026	
VENDOR	VENDOR TOTAL
Benefits Inc.	945.82
Phelps the Uniform Specialists	34.10
Cedar County Treasurer	81,021.71
Cedar County Treasurer	10,697.72
Cedar County Treasurer	361.82
Cedar County Treasurer	1,016.42
COUNTY TOTAL	94,077.59
	C26

Cedar County Board of Supervisors

(FOLLOWING IS A SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES.FULL TEXT OF DAY'S MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT AUDITOR'S OFFICE OR ON OUR WEBSITE—WWW.CEDARCOUNTY.IOWA.GOV)

TIPTON, IOWA June 16, 2026

Cedar County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. June 16, 2026 with following members present: Bixler, Kaufmann, and Chairperson Bell. Gaul and Barnhart were absent. Minutes reported by Deputy Auditor Hamdorf. Members of public were also present. Board viewed correspondence from various agencies.

Manure Management Annual Updates submitted.

It noted following Handwritten Disbursement issued on 6/12/2026 to Cedar County Treasurer for Benefits, Inc. for an electronic deposit: #445928 for \$3,849.89-self funded medical claims. Moved by Bixler seconded by Kaufmann to approve agenda.

Ayes: All

Absent: Gaul, Barnhart

Chairperson Bell addressed public for comments. There were none.

Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Bixler to approve Board Minutes of June 9, 2026.

Ayes: All

Absent: Barnhart, Gaul

Moved by Bixler seconded by Kaufmann to approve Payroll Disbursements #205546-205691 for period ending 6/6/26 and to be paid on 6/12/26.

Ayes: All

Absent: Gaul, Barnhart

Board reported on Outreach/Committee Meetings they attended.

Moved by Bixler seconded by Kaufmann to appoint Bryan Schroeder to Commission of Veterans Affairs.

Ayes: All

Absent: Gaul, Barnhart

Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Bixler to approve a new 14-day Class C Retail Alcohol License with Outdoor Service effective 6/29/2026 for Cedar County Fair Association.

Ayes: All

Absent: Barnhart, Gaul

Moved by Bixler seconded by Kaufmann to approve and authorize Chairperson Bell to sign Resolution Setting Forth Percentage of Funding for Property Tax Credits for Assessment Year 2025.

Ayes: All

Absent: Barnhart, Gaul

Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Bixler to approve and authorize Chairperson Bell to sign Resolution Approving Issuance of Weekly County Checks for EFT Self-Funded Health Claims.

Ayes: All

Absent: Gaul, Barnhart

Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Bixler to approve an authorize Chairperson Bell to sign Resolution Road Closure and Vacation Hearing and to set public hearing dates to July 14, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

Ayes: All

Absent: Gaul, Barnhart

Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Bell to approve a utility permit for Eastern Iowa REC on 310th Street and \$100 fee applies.

Ayes: All

Absent: Barnhart, Gaul

Abstain: Bixler

Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Bixler to adjourn at 9:08 a.m., to June 23, 2026.

Ayes: All

Absent: Gaul, Barnhart

Nicki Welch, Auditor
Jon Bell, Chairperson
C26

Classifieds Get Results

Legal Deadline for the WEST BRANCH TIMES is Thursday at 3 p.m.

Advertising Deadline for the WEST BRANCH TIMES is Monday at Noon

Questions call 563-886-2131

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