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Alan Kemp Honored at League Annual Conference

After 27 years of service to Iowa's cities, Iowa League of Cities Executive Director Alan Kemp has been inducted into the Iowa League of Cities Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame Award recognizes individuals whose service to the League is considered extraordinary. Kemp was honored during the League's Annual Conference & Exhibit in recognition of his longstanding commitment to the League, its members and the broader municipal profession.

Kemp has served as the League's Executive Director for 18 years. Before becoming executive director, he led the League's Membership Services team. Earlier in his career, he served as city administrator for Mitchellville and as an administrative assistant for Windsor Heights.

Throughout his tenure with the League, Kemp has provided leadership on a wide range of municipal issues and worked with countless city officials across Iowa. His experience and institutional knowledge have helped generations of elected officials and city staff better understand the League's mission, navigate complex issues and access resources available to their communities.

"Alan has always exemplified what it means to be a public servant," said Mickey Shields, Deputy Director. "For 27 years, he has put the League, its members and its staff first. His steady leadership, knowledge and genuine commitment to Iowa's cities have made a lasting impact on the organization and the communities it serves."

Under Kemp's leadership, the League has expanded its educational programming, advocacy efforts and member services. The League's Budget Workshops and Municipal Leadership Academy have become longstanding training opportunities for city officials, while the Nuisance Abatement Conference was developed as another specialized resource for municipal professionals.

Kemp has played a significant role in strengthening the League's advocacy efforts at the state and federal levels. His understanding of municipal law, the history of legislative proposals and the issues affecting Iowa cities has helped guide the League through challenging legislative sessions. He was instrumental in the return of Local Leaders Day, an annual event that brings city officials together to learn about legislative issues and strengthen the League's advocacy network.

The League has also expanded its services and resources during Kemp's tenure, including the creation of the Iowa Mayors Association, expanded online training and resources, and the development of a podcast series. He has overseen growth of the League's Endorsed Programs and helped establish the Community Alliance Partner program, connecting cities with additional resources and services.

Kemp's leadership extends beyond the League. He has served on numerous boards and committees, including the National League of Cities Board of Directors, NLC Executive Committee and State League Steering Committee. He has participated on Presidential Election Taskforces and served as vice chair of the International City/County Management Association Governmental Affairs and Policy Committee.

He has also provided leadership to organizations including the Iowa Municipal Workers' Compensation Association, Iowa Communities Assurance Pool, Iowa Public Agency Investment Trust, the former Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Iowa, Iowa City/County Management Association, Iowa Municipal Finance Officers Association and Iowa Mayors Association.

In 2025, Kemp received the John G. Stutz Award from the National League of Cities in recognition of 25 years of service to state municipal leagues.

Kemp's induction makes him a member of the Iowa League of Cities Hall of Fame, which recognizes individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary service to the League and Iowa city government.

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The Iowa League of Cities is the oldest, continuously operating municipal league in the country. Founded in 1898, the League is a not-for-profit organization that serves as the unified voice for cities, providing advocacy, training and guidance to the cities of Iowa.