

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST TO AWARD AN HONORARY DEGREE**  
**AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Action Requested:** Consider approval of the request by Iowa State University to award an honorary Doctor of Science degree to Mr. Larry Buss at Spring 2025 commencement.

**Details of Mr. Buss' Accomplishments:** Iowa State University wishes to present an Honorary Doctor of Science degree to Mr. Larry Buss, farmer and retired chief hydrologic engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in recognition of his extraordinary achievements in engineering and agriculture and his work as a staunch advocate for farmers and rural communities.

Mr. Buss grew up on a Monona County farm, helping his family tend to land and livestock. While his early life was deeply rooted in agriculture, his parents encouraged him to seek other opportunities. He attended Iowa State University, earning a bachelor's degree in agricultural engineering in 1968, and later received a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Nebraska.

Mr. Buss' professional career reflects dual interests in engineering and agriculture. After a brief stint with the U.S. Navy, working on nuclear submarines, he joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Omaha, Neb., where he served as a hydraulic engineer for more than 40 years. Simultaneously, Mr. Buss launched his farming career in 1972, with 19 acres of land in the Loess Hills. Over the years, his farming operation expanded to encompass 7,500 acres, 750,000 bushels of grain storage, two companies (Mo Valley Grain and Buss Farms LLC) and a team of employees.

Mr. Buss' innovative approach to farming has set him apart as a leader in Iowa agriculture. He was a pioneer in adopting no-till farming practices in the Loess Hills, significantly improving soil health and reducing erosion. Additionally, he introduced cover crops to improve water quality and soil health and increase soil organic matter, and organized workshops to educate fellow farmers on these practices. A leader in pest management, Mr. Buss is also credited with implementing the Iowa Pest Resistance Management Program in Harrison County and across the state of Iowa.

In 2011, Mr. Buss' engineering acumen was instrumental during the Missouri River flood. As chair of the Missouri River Flood Fight Coalition, he spearheaded efforts to mitigate flood damage, preventing more than \$150 million in losses and safeguarding communities. His expertise in non-structural flood risk management has earned him national and international recognition, and he continues to be a vital resource in this field.

Mr. Buss' dedication to agriculture and rural communities is reflected in his involvement with numerous organizations. He has held various leadership roles with the Iowa Corn Growers Association, the Iowa Corn Promotion Board, and the Iowa Master Farmers Association. His involvement with the U.S. Grains Council and the National Corn Growers Association has furthered the interests of Iowa's agricultural community on a national and global scale.

Faculty members from Iowa State's Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering nominated Mr. Buss for the honorary doctorate degree. Their nomination states, "Larry Buss

exhibit[s] extraordinary achievements in engineering and agriculture where over and over he becomes involved, moves into a leadership position and achievements follow. He is uniquely positioned at the confluence of row-crop agricultural practices and professional soil conservation engineering.”

This nomination is supported by Iowa State’s Faculty Senate Honorary Degree Committee and Executive Board; Senior Vice President and Provost Jason Keith; and President Wendy Wintersteen, who is pleased to present it to the Iowa Board of Regents.