

Who is Robert E. Howard

Robert E. Howard was born in Williamsburg, Iowa in 1948 to Wesley & Edith Fitzgerald Howard. His family immediately moved back to Muscatine, Iowa where they had previously lived. Bob's father and mother still live on a small farm north of Muscatine today where Bob grew up. Bob has one sister, Mary Lou Howell, and two brothers, Thomas and William. All have lived in or around Muscatine their entire lives.

Bob attended grade school at St. Mary's at the top of Green Street Hill, and graduated from Hayes Catholic High School in 1966 right here in Muscatine. While going to High School Bob was already learning the value of a dollar as well as responsibility by working during summer vacations for local farmers. During the school year he worked afternoon and evenings at Cohn's News Agency. And all through High School, Bob would milk the 8 cow family herd by hand both morning and night 7 days a week.

After graduation, Bob joined Bandag International but left shortly thereafter due to the US Army draft.

Bob then joined Mull Wholesale Grocers where he sold institutional foods to local restaurants until 1973 when they went out of business.

It was then that Bob found his calling and spent over 32 years with Weber & Sons Button Co., Inc. where he learned, worked, and managed almost every department. During his tenure the company grew in size physically, geographically, and financially. Likewise, Bob moved from Midwest Salesman, to Sales Manager, National Sales Manager, Vice President and part owner. He oversaw office operations in Muscatine, New York, Los Angeles, Miami, Atlanta, El Paso, Savannah, Tn., and San Juan, PR.. Plus, six individual salesmen in other parts of the US. whom he traveled with on a regular scheduled basis.

After the NAFTA Treaty was signed and the textile industry left the US and migrated to other parts of the world, Bob methodically dismantled the company outside of Muscatine, Iowa. He then reorganized the Muscatine Home Office and factory to efficiently handle current production levels and customer requirements. His leaving and subsequent buyout brought to a close Weber's downsizing process and Bob's career in the polyester button industry.

Bob has also been blessed with the "entrepreneurial spirit". In 1986 he and his wife Nancy established Heartland Trim, Inc. Heartland Trim is an Iowa Sub-Chapter S corporation that has been involved in embroidered emblem imports, direct embroidery, screen-printing, advertising specialties, sporting goods, antiques, and real estate. He assisted his wife in early stages of establishment and development. And since his departure from Weber in 2005, shifted Heartland into suppliers of the garment industry and opened a division called Heartland Business Solutions which offers smaller

companies sales consultation, management, and representation at affordable prices. Bob felt it was his way of giving something back!

When Bob has free time, he enjoys shooting, hunting, fishing and hiking. He is a long time member of the NRA, helped start the first Muscatine Bass Club, and later started the first Muscatine B.A.S.S. Chapter. He and Nancy also enjoy getting away on motorcycle trips and use to own a Gold Wing with matching trailer. He and Nancy love to reminisce of those days gone by and how much those motorcycle trips meant to both of them.

Now days Bob stays very busy between growing his business and working in the community. He belongs to, or has belonged to the following groups: CO-Chair Muscatine County GOP Central Committee, Muscatine County GOP Executive Board member, Greater Muscatine Chamber of Commerce and Industry Recruitment Group, Kiwanis, Muscatine Zoning Board of Adjustment, Muscatine Planning & Zoning Commission, Muscatine Area Geographical Information Consortium, Museum of History and Industry Exhibit Group, Stakeholder in U.S Hwy. 61 Corridor Study Group, and Muscatine City Councilman at Large. And you can see Bob on many occasions attending local committees and civic groups in order to stay in touch with his constituents and neighbors.

Bob and his wife Nancy have 5 children, 13 grand children and reside at 802 Iowa Avenue, Muscatine. Bob is looking forward to representing all of Iowa District 80 in the Iowa Legislature and asks for all your support and prayers.

**Vote for a “Common Sense Business Type Approach” to
State Government**

**Vote for Robert E. Howard
Iowa House District 80
November 2008**