

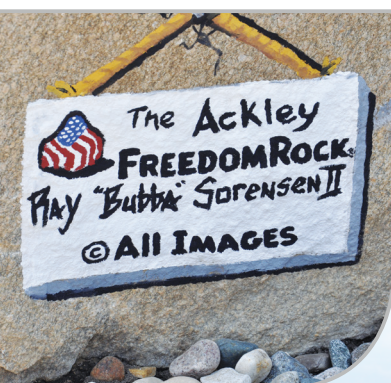
## FOUNDATION SUPPORTS FREEDOM ROCK TOUR



It's no secret the Deb and Jeff Hansen Foundation is both proudly patriotic and humbly grateful to members of our Armed Services and Military veterans. Through programs such as Hams for Heroes and the Pork Care Package Project, the Foundation works to fulfill its mission to recognize the bravery, courage and sacrifices service men and women make to protect our freedom.

Ray "Bubba" Sorensen II also takes a unique approach to patriotism by painting intricate murals on giant boulders all across Iowa. "I believe we all need to be reminded our freedom is the most expensive thing we own, even if we didn't pay for it ourselves," says Sorensen.

So far, Sorensen has painted "Freedom Rocks" in 31 counties across the state, and just started his 32nd in Wright County, Iowa in Dows. He is trying to paint a Freedom Rock in all 99 counties in Iowa, a plan that started in 2013 and is projected to finish in 2023.



Earlier this year the Foundation contacted Sorensen to see how they could help. "The timing was perfect, Bubba happened to be in desperate need of a pick-up to pull his supply trailer," said Jen Sorenson (of no relation), Communications Director for Iowa Select Farms. With the start of this year's tour fast approaching the Deb and Jeff Hansen Foundation, in cooperation with Iowa Select Farms, was able to loan Bubba a new truck to use for the tour. The gift came complete with a patriotic vehicle wrap for both the pick-up and the trailer.

"I'm so grateful for the use of the truck and the wrap is a great addition to the Freedom Rock Tour," said Sorensen. "Now when I'm driving from county to county the Freedom Rock message is getting out, I couldn't be more appreciative of the Foundation for stepping up to help."





# THE FREEDOM ROCK

The original Freedom Rock was painted 17 years ago less than 6 miles southwest of Menlo, right off Interstate 80. Though he never served in the military, the Greenfield, Iowa, native said he grew up in a very patriotic family. His uncle served multiple tours in Vietnam and his poor reception upon returning home really stuck with Sorensen. "I had a soft spot for veterans from then on out and wanted to go out of my way to say thank you," Sorensen said.

He said his real "ah-ha" moment came when he was an art and design student at Iowa State University and he saw the movie "Saving Private Ryan." He said watching the D-Day scene during the film's opening was a real turning point.

From there he called the Schildberg family—owners of the Jefferson Rock Quarry and a giant boulder that sat out in the middle of nowhere just south of town. He asked permission to paint the boulder and the family gave him the green light. Sorensen proceeded to paint a mural of the flag-raising at Iwo Jima with the phrase, "Thank You Veterans for Our Freedom." Even though patriotism had been ingrained in his mind since he was a child, he was not so familiar with painting. In fact, the Freedom Rock was the first mural he had ever done. "I'd really never painted before. I was just getting into that in college," he said.

Since the original creation, he has painted a new mural on the Adair County rock canvas each year, linking his annual "labor-of-love" with the three-day Memorial Day weekend.

The Freedom Rock Tour lasts from April through October, and during the late fall and winter months the father of two said he paints indoor murals and does speaking appearances. However, the tour is his primary profession; one he hopes can remind people who makes our freedom possible.

Follow the Freedom Rock Tour on Twitter, Facebook and at [www.thefreedomrock.com](http://www.thefreedomrock.com)



# THANK YOU 2015 SPONSORS!

## PLATINUM



## PREMIER



## GOLD



## SILVER



## BRONZE

