

*Alexander W. Doniphan*

COMMUNITY SERVICE & LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION



Community Service Award

October 14, 2021



*The Alexander W. Doniphan Committee  
& Clay County Millenium Historical Board*

wish to express their sincere gratitude to  
the Woodneath Library Center, for their generous support  
and the use of the beautiful facilities.

The Committee offers their sincere thanks for the support of  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
in the greater Kansas City area.

*The Alexander W. Doniphan Community Service  
& Leadership Award Committee*

John A. Dillingham and Cynthia McDavitt, Co-Chairs

Rodney Ames, Robert Arter, Michael Beach, Raymond Brock Jr.,  
Sheryl Gallagher, Kurt Graham, Micheal Hamblin, Lisa  
Henderson, Laurie Jacobus, Jeremiah J. Morgan, Steven V. Potter,  
Jennnifer Tillitson, W. Christian Sizemore, Eric Zahnd



# Anita B. Gorman

Anita Gorman's contributions to Kansas City and the state of Missouri over a period of more than six decades are too numerous to summarize. She served as the first female member and president of the Kansas City Board of Parks and Recreation. She was the first female member and chairwoman of the Missouri Department of Conservation. She was also the first female chair of the Salvation Army in Kansas City, and she was the first female chair of the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Anita was instrumental in the establishment of Kansas City International Airport and helped commission the airport's dedication in 1972. She has been a member of the City of Fountains Foundation that helps maintain Kansas City's 48 publicly-owned fountains, and multiple fountains in the Northland likely would not exist without her leadership.

Among many awards and recognitions, she was named Greater Kansas Citian of the Year by the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, is an inductee in the Missouri Recreation and Parks Hall of Fame, was named Kindest Kansas Citian, and received the Northland Community Pinnacle Award.

Anita graduated from William Jewell College - an institution founded by a group that included Alexander Doniphan - and received her master's degree from Harvard University. She was married to Gerald Gorman for more than 60 years prior to his death in 2016. She is the mother of Gwen Royle and Vicky Jacoby and has five grandchildren. She is a member of Avondale United Methodist Church, where she taught Sunday School for nearly 60 years.

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## *Past Recipients*

2018	Senator John C. Danforth	2008	Raymond R. Brock, Jr.
2016	Susan Easton Black	2007	Juarenne Hester
2014	Elder Lance B. Wickham	2005	John A. Dillingham
2012	Lt. General (ret) Robert Arter	2003	John and Mary Pritchard
2010	S. Preston Williams	2002	Judge R. Kenneth Elliott
2009	Dr. W. Christian Sizemore		

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# Award Ceremony

## Welcome

Cynthia McDavitt

*Alexander W. Doniphan Committee Co-Chair*

## Invocation

Eric Zahnd

*Alexander W. Doniphan Committee Member*

## Presentation of Colors

William C. Corum Chapter

*Sons of the American Revolution*

## National Anthem

Sung by Cameron Huett

*Choral Scholar, William Jewell College*

## Pledge of Allegiance

Harrison Fung and Anderson VanYperen

*Students, Shoal Creek Elementary*

## Welcome to Woodneath Library

Steve Potter

*CEO, Mid-Continent Public Library*

## Introduction to Doniphan March

Laurie Jacobus

*Alexander W. Doniphan Committee Member*

## “Colonel Doniphan Grand March”

Composed by A. Waldoner

*Recorded by Alexandra Graham*

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# Lives of Leadership

Alexander W. Doniphan

Jeremiah Morgan

*Alexander W. Doniphan Committee Member*

Anita B. Gorman

John Dillingham

*Alexander W. Doniphan Committee Co-Chair*

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## Presentation of Doniphan Award to Anita B. Gorman

Presentation

John Dillingham and Cynthia McDavitt

*Alexander W. Doniphan Committee Co-Chairs*

Acceptance Remarks

Anita B. Gorman

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Presentation of Proclamation

Representative Wes Rogers

*Missouri House of Representatives*

Benediction

Lisa Henderson

*Alexander W. Doniphan Committee Member*

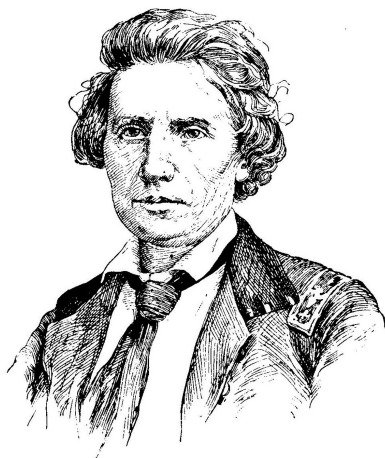
Retirement of Colors

William C. Corum Chapter

*Sons of the American Revolution*

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*A. W. Doniphan*

## Alexander William Doniphan

was born near Maysville in Mason County, Kentucky, on July 9, 1808, and died in Richmond, Ray County, Missouri, on August 8, 1887. Descending from Revolutionary War ancestry, Doniphan graduated from Augusta College in Kentucky in 1827 at age 19. In 1829, after studying law for two years, he was admitted to practice in the courts of Ohio and Kentucky. In 1830 he relocated to Lafayette County, Missouri, where he established a law office. Within a few years, he traveled to Liberty, Clay County, where he became known as a fearless orator in the courts of law.

Alexander Doniphan married Elizabeth Jane Thornton in 1837. She was the daughter of Colonel John Thornton, one of Clay County's first settlers. That marriage produced two sons, both of whom died in their youth by separate accidents.

During Doniphan's 30 years in Clay County he was regarded as a leading citizen, giving the best of his abilities to the county's social and economic development. Although a member of the Disciples of Christ Church, he was one of the founders of William Jewell College, a Baptist-affiliated school in Liberty, Missouri. His name appears as a trustee of a number of early schools and he later became the first Clay County School Commissioner.

While serving in the 1836-1837 General Assembly, Doniphan was instrumental in organizing Caldwell County as a home for members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He had previously represented the claims of members of the church in property disputes from Jackson County. In the fall of 1838, Doniphan was called to lead a detachment of approximately 200 Clay County militia to Caldwell and Daviess counties, to assist in settling a dispute between the Latter-day Saints and other residents in the area.

In what would become known as the Mormon War, Brigadier General Doniphan was ordered by General Lucas of the State Militia to execute Joseph Smith, Jr., founder of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, his older brother Hyrum and other Church leaders. He flatly refused the direct order, stating, "It is cold-blooded murder." Though his disobedience could have led to his own court-martial, the refusal saved the lives of those Church leaders, who were turned over to civilian authorities.

Alexander Doniphan led one of the most famous expeditions in American history to Old Mexico in 1846-1847. His service during this war is recognized by his inclusion in the Fort Leavenworth Hall of Fame.

Following his service in the war, Doniphan returned to his law practice in Liberty where he grew in reputation as a supporter of business, political and economic growth of the local community and the nation. He was appointed by President Abraham Lincoln to serve as a delegate to the Washington Peace Conference in 1861. In 1862 he moved to St. Louis, where he worked as a lawyer with the Missouri Claims Commission seeking pensions for refugees during the Civil War.

Following the Civil War he relocated to Richmond, Ray County, Missouri, where he practiced law until his death at age 79. He is buried in Liberty, Missouri, beside his wife and two sons.

## About the Alexander W. Doniphan Community Service & Leadership Award

The Alexander W. Doniphan Community Service & Leadership Award recognizes the honoree as one who exemplifies General Doniphan's outstanding characteristics and personal commitments in one or more of the diverse components of his life, mainly Education, Jurisprudence, Statesmanship, Patriotism in Defense of Country, and Integrity in Business.

On his 200th birthday, July 9, 2008, Alexander W. Doniphan was inducted into the Hall of Famous Missourians by the Speaker of the Missouri House, and a life-sized bust was placed in the Missouri State Capitol in honor of his exemplary life and achievements.

The Alexander W. Doniphan Community Service & Leadership Award is made possible through the efforts of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the greater Kansas City area, the Clay County Millenium Historical Board and the Clay County Commission.

# Alexander W. Doniphan

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## ***The first Clay County School Commissioner***

As a leader in education, Doniphan's name appears as trustee of a number of early schools in Missouri.

## ***William Jewell College***

Doniphan is among honored founders, educators and philanthropists.

He joined with Major Alvin Lightburne and others as founders of William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri, more than 160 years ago.

## ***Fort Leavenworth Hall of Fame***

Alexander Doniphan is one of nine distinguished pre-Civil War honorees who share placement on this Hall of Fame with General Douglas MacArthur, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, General Colin L. Powell, General William C. Westmoreland and other distinguished military leaders. Doniphan was the Brigade Commander in the Missouri State Militia during the Mexican American War. His brigade, including Clay County Militia, marched more than 5,500 miles and fought three important battles - Brazito, Sacramento and El Paso - conquering the states of Mexico and Chihuahua.

## ***A Missouri Legislator of the Whig Party***

Elected to represent Clay County in 1836, 1840 and 1854, Doniphan was instrumental in organizing Caldwell and Daviess counties. He is also credited as a leading force in facilitating the Platte Purchase.

## ***Washington Peace Conference***

Doniphan was appointed by President Abraham Lincoln as a delegate to the conference in 1861.

## ***The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints***

As Brigadier General of the Clay County Militia, serving during the Mormon War of 1838, he refused a direct order to execute Joseph Smith, Jr., founder of the Church, his brother Hyrum and five other Church leaders, thus saving their lives. During the following months, Joseph and Hyrum Smith and four other Church leaders were held in the Liberty jail awaiting trial. The charges against them proved to be false and they were allowed to escape and reunite with their families.

