

On Monday, December 28, 2009, our good friend Eliot Keller died.

For over 20 years, Eliot served as excursion chair of the Iowa Association of Railroad Passengers. He attended almost all (if not all) transportation meetings in the state of Iowa. He was always promoting passenger train service. In 2008, IARP presented the first Eliot Keller Award. This award recognized his dedicated and ceaseless efforts to bring fast and frequent passenger train service to the state of Iowa. The first recipient of this award was Eliot Keller.

In 2007, he was one of the organizers of the National Rail Passenger Leadership Summit (later renamed the National Passenger Train Leadership Summit) in Chicago, which brought together transportation advocates from across the country to promote passenger trains ([www.nationalpassengertrainsummit.org](http://www.nationalpassengertrainsummit.org)).

Eliot was very active in the Iowa City area Chamber of Commerce. The chamber recently awarded Eliot a special honor, The Russell Slade Award, for being a positive role model and cheerleader for the community. This award is rarely presented.

Eliot was the President, Treasurer and General Manager of KZIA, Inc. He was inducted into the Iowa Broadcaster Hall of Fame in 2009. An Eliot Keller Scholarship will be presented by the Iowa Broadcaster News Association.

Everyone that knew Eliot said that Eliot was a mentor. He encouraged us all to put our best effort in everything that we do.

We will all miss you, Eliot. When that passenger train arrives in Dubuque, Quad Cities, Iowa City and points beyond, we will all cheer. As Eliot said frequently, it takes all of us working together to accomplish this goal. We will also say, Thank You Eliot.