



## Dena Ott

August 26, 1920 - September 12, 2020

Dena Ott, 100, of Oskaloosa, died on Saturday, September 12, 2020, just 17 days after her 100th birthday, at the MHP Hospital in Oskaloosa. Dena was born August 26, 1920, in Eddyville, Iowa, the daughter of Jacob and Della Bos Klein. She attended country school in Mahaska County. Following school, she helped on the family farm and drove trucks for her brothers. On June 24, 1942, she was united in marriage to Irvin Ott, in Lancaster, Missouri. Following their marriage, Irvin was stationed at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri, and Dena moved there with him. Upon his discharge from the military, the couple returned to Mahaska County. Dena primarily stayed home to care for her family and home. She helped Irvin part-time at the Sunrise Market in Oskaloosa. When her children were in their teens, she went to work at Jack and Jill Grocery and later for Easter's Grocery Store in Oskaloosa. Last she worked at Wal-Mart in Oskaloosa for 20 years. Her family strongly suggested that at the age of 94 it was probably a good time to retire. On November 29, 1984, Irvin died. Dena stayed in her home until 2017, when she moved into Homestead Assisted Living in Oskaloosa. She was a member of the Oskaloosa American Legion Auxiliary. She enjoyed antiques, going to garage sales, and refinishing furniture. Her true joy in life was spending time with her family.

Her family includes her four children, Lynda (Tom) Main of Bentonville, Arkansas, Vicky (Mike) Phillips of Chapin, South Carolina, Pat McCombs of Kansas City, Missouri, and Clifford (Denise) Ott of Ottumwa; six grandchildren, Jeff Phillips, Jill Phillips Gardner, Alex McCombs, Kate McCombs Baldwin, Justin Ott, and Bryan Ott; nine great grandchildren, Emily Gardner, Jacob Gardner, Andrew Baldwin, Kaylee Ott, Alex Ott, Elijah Ott, Leilani Ott, Malia Ott, and Arielle Ott; three step grandchildren; a sister in law, Peggy Klein of Oskaloosa; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband, Dena was preceded in death by her parents; a son-in-law, Duane McCombs; three brothers, Elmer Klein, Ivan Klein, and Brand "Sonny" Klein; and brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Hazel Klein, Ione Klein, James and Geraldine Ott, Mary Rose Davenport, and Margaret and Dean Mains.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, September 16, 2020, at 1 p.m. in the Bates Funeral Chapel in Oskaloosa with Pastor Alvern Boetsma officiating. Burial will be in the Forest Cemetery in Oskaloosa. The Bates Funeral Chapel is in charge of the arrangements. According to the rules put in place by the Iowa Department of Public Health, proper social distancing and reasonable personal protective equipment is advised for attending a religious public event. The funeral service will be live streamed at the funeral home's YouTube Channel for those wishing to support the family from a distance. Visitation with the family present will be held on Wednesday from 12 noon until service time at 1 p.m. Memorials may be made to Stephen Memorial Animal Shelter, 1716 Pella Avenue, Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577.

# Cemetery

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## Forest Cemetery

634 North 9th Street  
Oskaloosa, IA, 52577

# Events

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**SEP** **Visitation** 12:00PM - 01:00PM

**16**

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Bates Funeral Chapel  
114 South 7th Street, Oskaloosa, IA, US, 52577

**SEP** **Funeral Service** 01:00PM

**16**

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Bates Funeral Chapel  
114 South 7th Street, Oskaloosa, IA, US, 52577

# Comments

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“ Brook & Brenda Todd lit a candle in memory of Dena Ott



Brook & Brenda Todd - September 18, 2020 at 06:34 PM

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“ My thoughts & prayers are with you all, Bless her heart she was the hardest working person I ever knew. When she was at Walmart I would always go thru her line just to visit with her. And before Homestead got shut down spent many visits with her, among all the other people I knew, have said I knew more people there than in Oskey. So sorry I couldn't be at funeral but my thoughts were with everyone.

Martha Veerman - September 16, 2020 at 05:44 PM

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“ I felt like I knew Dena from hearing my friend, Denise talk about her wonderful mother-in-law who she spent so much time with and enjoyed every minute she spent with Dena. My thoughts are with the family of Dena!

T. Hartley - September 15, 2020 at 01:54 PM

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“ T. Hartley lit a candle in memory of Dena Ott



T. Hartley - September 15, 2020 at 01:51 PM

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“ Dena was always an amazing woman. I worked with her for a long time at Easter's Super Value. She was always cheerful and worked hard. I would see her at Walmart when visiting Oskaloosa and she always amazed me that she was still working and going strong! Praise God for her long life with the capacity to keep going and enjoying life! I've wondered about her through the years. I am sorry to hear about your loss but know how thankful you all must be to have her with you for so long. May God Bless this wonderful woman and provide comfort to all who loved her.

**Pam Kerr Wahlberg** - September 15, 2020 at 10:22 AM

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“ My sympathies for your loss. Dena was an icon in the grocery store business! I'll always remember her! Marvel Tomlinson

**Marvel Tomlinson** - September 14, 2020 at 10:02 PM

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“ Our sincere sympathy to the family. Dena never turned me away when I would show up on my horse right at supper time. Instead, she would say, if you're going to eat, set the table!!! Love to the family.

**Jill Nuckolls Van Weelden** - September 14, 2020 at 04:39 PM

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“ She was a delight to work with here at Walmart, we were certainly sad when she had to retire. God bless you and your family, prayers

**Kathy Jones** - September 14, 2020 at 02:32 PM

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“ Dear Lynda and family,  
Your mom lived a long life. I remember her always busy when I came over to play.  
She was always welcoming to one more kid in her house. Sorry for your loss.

Martha Gilderbloom Wall

Martha Wall - September 14, 2020 at 10:38 AM



“ Mom lived across the street from Dena for 50 years. They always looked out for each other and even though mom worked “only” until age 80 she so admired Dena’s work ethic. They then ended passing only 3 months apart. N Market will never be the same. Family of Caroline Smith

Shelby Allgood - September 24, 2020 at 12:00 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. Dena was a wonderful woman. I worked with her at Easters grocery. My God bless and comfort you.



Lesa Vest - September 14, 2020 at 10:20 AM



“ Jeff & Jill Ferguson lit a candle in memory of Dena Ott



Jeff & Jill Ferguson - September 14, 2020 at 04:38 AM



“ A lovely lady I have had the pleasure to be acquainted with nearly all my life--from the grocery store as a child, to my friend, Patti's, mother, to always greeting me in the checkout line at Walmart. God bless and comfort the family. Leslie Rice

Leslie J Rice - September 14, 2020 at 12:32 AM

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“ So sorry for your loss...I think everyone who has lived here for a while knew Dena and loved her,,such a sweet lady ,may she Rip !



Shirley Hunt - September 13, 2020 at 10:06 PM

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“ Judy Lewis lit a candle in memory of Dena Ott



Judy Lewis - September 13, 2020 at 09:46 PM

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“ Diana lit a candle in memory of Dena Ott



Diana - September 13, 2020 at 09:24 PM

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“ I worked with Dena at Walmart but knew her for years my mom went to their Grocery Store. Rest In Peace my friend.



**Connie Walraven** - September 13, 2020 at 09:14 PM