



Jean Marie Allen

February 8, 1927 - February 2, 2018

Jean Marie Allen, who sold thousands of lunch tickets to a generation of students at Jefferson Elementary school and proudly wore the nickname “Mean Jean,” given to her by Band of the 80s members as the Oskaloosa High School Marching Band toured the Midwest, died peacefully February 2nd, six days short of her 91st birthday.

Jean was independent, resilient and determined. To her children and friends, she was a model of strength. But behind the strength was a wicked sense of humor and a wonderful laugh.

Jean was born February 8, 1927, in Ellsworth, MN, to Joseph and Viola Bofenkamp. She was raised in Carroll and Sac City, and graduated in 1944 from Sac City High School. She was secretary of her senior class there, and was a cheerleader and member of the synchronized swimming team.

She married Lester Ward Allen on May 23, 1949 in Sac City. They lived in Algona, Estherville, Clear Lake, Oelwein, where their eldest son Chris was born, Mason City, Carroll where Keith and Kara were born, Oskaloosa, Des Moines and Johnston, maybe pretty much in that order. It’s hard to remember. She got around. She and Ward traveled extensively, including Canada and California, before Chris was born. Ward died February 7th, 1981, on the eve of her birthday. After Ward’s death she traveled around Europe with a tour group, and with Keith and his family, to Nice, France.

Jean worked as a legal secretary in Mason City, and part time as a bookkeeper in Carroll. She stopped working when Keith was born, and returned to work when Kara started elementary. She worked in the Oskaloosa Public Schools Central Office. On her first day was convinced she had irreparably mismanaged the lunch money accounts. Within days she mastered the cash flow, and after several years moved to Jefferson where she found true delight in seeing the children’s faces every day. She kept principal Glenn Chance, and later John Bowker, in line.

She and her husband, Ward, raised their family in a house full of love and laughter. Jean was a member of Beta Sigma Phi sorority and she and Ward played in a bridge club for many years. She attended just about every single event her kids participated in, from band and choir concerts, to stage plays and basketball games. She loved Osky High football games, and was usually in the stands. She and Ward chaperoned many a band trip, sometimes to the chagrin of Keith and Kara. Chris escaped that fate only because they had to stay home with the younger children when he was in band.

She lived long enough to see her great-granddaughter, Campbell, celebrate her first birthday. She saw her three children get married, have families and succeed in their careers. But mostly she made friends everywhere.

Jean was a faithful member of St. Mary's Catholic Church. All three kids were confirmed there, and Kara was married there. Jean did not dote on her kids, but she did love them. She expertly guided them through broken bones, broken hearts, the travails of new math, the grief of losing a dad and the challenges of college. All three not only graduated from college but went on for advanced degrees.

Jean moved from Oskaloosa to Des Moines in 2007. She spent her last three years living at Macauley Terrace in Johnston. Jean suffered a stroke on February 1, and had endured congestive heart failure for about eight months prior to that. The kind and loving staff at the Mercy Hospice House in Johnston, cared for her for the last month of her life.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Ward, brothers Art and Don, sister-in-law Beverly, and in-laws Bonnie and Lenerd Barenz .

She is survived by her children Chris (Elaine) Allen, Keith (Lisa) Allen, Kara (David) Bahr, grandchildren Sarah (Anthony) Draine, Joe (Karen) Allen, Nick Allen, Ross Allen, and Kiersten Bahr, great-granddaughter Campbell Draine, sister Carma (Dale) Peck, brothers Al (Mary) Bofenkamp, Jerry (LoAnn) Bofenkamp, David (Donna) Bofenkamp, sister-in-law Mary Jo Bofenkamp, a couple dozen nieces and nephews, and a warehouse full of friends.

Mass of the Christian Burial will be held Tuesday, February 6, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. in the St. Mary's Catholic Church in Oskaloosa with Reverend John Spiegel officiating. Burial will be in the St. Mary's Cemetery in Oskaloosa. The Bates Funeral Chapel is in charge of the arrangements. Visitation will begin Monday morning after 11 in the Bates Funeral Chapel and the family will be at the funeral chapel from 5-7 Monday evening to greet friends and relatives. There will be a Rosary at 7p.m. Monday at the funeral chapel. Memorials may

be made to Mercy Hospice in Johnston.

Cemetery

St. Mary's Cemetery

Oskaloosa, IA, 52577

Events

FEB **Visitation** 11:00AM - 07:00PM

5

Bates Funeral Chapel

114 South 7th Street, Oskaloosa, IA, US, 52577

FEB **Rosary** 07:00PM

5

Bates Funeral Chapel

114 South 7th Street, Oskaloosa, IA, US, 52577

FEB **Funeral Mass** 10:00AM

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St. Mary's Catholic Church

315 1st Avenue East, Oskaloosa, IA, US, 52577

FEB **Burial**

6

St. Mary's Cemetery

Oskaloosa, IA, US, 52577

Comments



“ My condolences to the family. I was a student at jefferson. She was always so kind to me. Never heard anything bad come from get mouth, only encouragement. I was very shy, but she could she past that and get me to open up. Lovely memories!

Laura Mickels (Hughes) - February 08, 2018 at 11:16 PM



“ Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Jean Marie Allen.



February 05, 2018 at 04:37 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Jean Marie Allen.



February 05, 2018 at 02:30 PM



“ 165 files added to the album LifeTributes



Bates Funeral Chapel - February 05, 2018 at 12:55 PM



“ Thinking of the Allen Family with fond remembrance and heartfelt sympathy.
Erma Johnson

Erma Johnson - February 05, 2018 at 11:01 AM



“ I greatly appreciated the chance to talk about our Allen family with Jean recently. I was on my way through to see my daughters in Colorado and stopped to see Jean. We reminisced about the old days and how all of the kids were just angelic. Her son Keith was there too and confirmed this of course.

Tim Allen
Duluth, Mn

Tim Allen - February 05, 2018 at 10:24 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jean Marie Allen.



February 05, 2018 at 10:15 AM



“ Mark Smith and Friends from ARRIS purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Jean Marie Allen.



Mark Smith and Friends from ARRIS - February 05, 2018 at 10:13 AM



“ I have known Jean for oh so many years. First at Jefferson school where she sold me lunch tickets and then because my mom, Carol Bass, joined the Jefferson team as an aide and worked with Jean. She kept tabs on me all these many years and was always kind enough to tell me how much I reminded her of my mother who passed in 1994. She was the very definition of a great gal! My thoughts and prayers with all who loved and will miss her.

Jill Ewing - February 05, 2018 at 10:13 AM



“ Judy Lewis lit a candle in memory of Jean Marie Allen



Judy Lewis - February 04, 2018 at 11:37 PM



“ The Legvold family purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Jean Marie Allen.



The Legvold family - February 04, 2018 at 07:31 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jean Marie Allen.



February 04, 2018 at 02:53 PM



“ Pat Cindy Kitty Marvil Donnett Judy Barb Donna purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Jean Marie Allen.



Pat Cindy Kitty Marvil Donnett Judy Barb Donna - February 04, 2018 at 01:54 PM



“ Garry and Connie Soper purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Jean Marie Allen.



Garry and Connie Soper - February 04, 2018 at 09:13 AM



“ The Mongans-Jodi, Matt, Kylie, Carson and Kenna purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Jean Marie Allen.



The Mongans-Jodi, Matt, Kylie, Carson and Kenna - February 03, 2018 at 08:57 PM



“ Love, Mary Jo, Beth&Zach, Jill&Tom, Dean&Jeanine purchased the With Distinction for the family of Jean Marie Allen.



Love, Mary Jo, Beth&Zach, Jill&Tom, Dean&Jeanine - February 03, 2018 at 06:21 PM



“ All of my memories of Jean include laughter, love, food and a friendship that spanned all the generations of our families. She was my friend, my second mother and she will remain in my heart forever. Thanks for sharing her through good times and bad, happy and sad..it has been a treasured journey. Like Kylie said, not through blood, but definitely family. We will all miss her.♡

Lynn Hodgeman - February 03, 2018 at 03:21 PM



“ To the family of Jean Allen:
Our deepest sympathy goes out to you and your family members. Due to the snow storm on Monday evening we canceled our plans to come to the visitation in Oskaloosa and were so sorry we could not be with all of you. Many fond memories come to mind with our children all growing up together and Jean and Liz as chaperones on the buses for band trips. What fun to share all those students with Jean and her great humor.
Our love and thoughts go out to you.
Liz and Tom Epperly and family.

Liz Epperly - February 08, 2018 at 04:31 PM