



## Diane Dowden

November 19, 1933 - January 6, 2016

Diane Dowden, age 82, of Spirit Lake, passed away on Wednesday, January 6, 2016, at Hawkeye Care Center in Spirit Lake. She was born on November 19, 1933, in Exira, Iowa, to Adrian and Annette (Lohner) Corl.

Diane's parents divorced soon after Diane's birth and she was raised by her mother and grandmother, Sena Lohner, for the first few years of her life. Her mother married Floyd Johnson several years later and they moved to Atlantic, Iowa.

Diane graduated from Atlantic High School in 1952, and following graduation, she and three of her girlfriends traveled to the Iowa Great Lakes in search of summer employment. The girls became carhops at the newly opened Red's Drive In in Arnolds Park.

It was during that summer that Diane met Fred, her husband to be. Fred and Diane dated during that summer and fell in love. Diane went to the University of Nebraska in the fall of 1952, and Fred went back to the University of South Dakota in the fall of 1952. The long distance romance continued throughout the winter and Diane returned to work at the Iowa Great Lakes in the summer of 1953.

Fred dropped out of ROTC and that made him eligible for the draft. Uncle Sam required his service and Fred and Diane were married August 23, 1953, and Fred went into the Army in October. They were stationed at Fort Carson in Colorado and upon completion of their service, Fred returned to finish his college work at the University of Iowa.

During that year at the University of Iowa, their daughter, Robin was born. Upon graduation, Fred's father asked that Fred return to Spirit Lake and help him sell his real estate and insurance agency, as he had a terminal illness. He sold it to his son.

Diane and Fred have lived in Spirit Lake since that time. Diane was a stay at home mother for the first few years, but became a world-class gardener, both flowers and vegetables. When Robin started school, Diane worked for Fred in the real estate office and for her friend, Kay Ahrens, at the Clothes Peddler. Fred was one of the owners of Center Lake Village Mobile Home Court and when the partner that was managing the court died, Diane took over and ran the court for nearly twenty years.

Diane loved animals and was a great friend of the elderly. She volunteered at the local humane society and was a staunch advocate for senior citizens, leading the capital campaign for the center they occupy today. A natural caregiver with an enormous heart, Diane spent many hours helping those in need.

Diane is survived by her husband, Fred Dowden of Spirit Lake; her daughter, Robin Dowden of Corning, New York; and many friends. She was preceded in death by her parents.

A memorial visitation for 82-year-old Diane Dowden of Spirit Lake will be held Tuesday, January 12, 2016, from 5:00p.m. until 7:00p.m. at the Schuchert-Lentz Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given in Diane's name to the Senior Center in Spirit Lake or the Humane Society of Northwest Iowa.

The Schuchert-Lentz Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

JG

“ Robin and Fred, sorry for your loss.

Janice Myrick Gammon - January 23, 2016 at 07:28 AM

SJ

“ I lived in the mobile home park. How well I remember Diane! She was so nice! I remember the day when they delivered my new mobile home. Diane was down on her knees by the home-looking under the home, guiding the backing up of the home to jibe up with the pipes under the home! it was a comical sight! We laughed about it afterwards. I asked her if she ever got "ran over" by a mobile home backing up!!! I remember her two goldens--they rode with her a lot when she was at the mobile home park! She had a wonderful park and was very reasonable on the rent! The world just lost a wonderful lady!

sherryl Joines - January 16, 2016 at 12:38 PM

SD

“ Seems like I have known Diane and Fred my entire life. I think I have. Diane always had a smile on her face and laughing. Thanks for sharing all the fun pictures. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Take care. Hugs to you.

Sally Christensen DeLoss - January 13, 2016 at 09:52 AM

SS

“ What a character Diane was! Always at the center of the fun--and what fun you all had. We still walk down to where the Baja house used to be, and occasionally have found things from your time there. I hope she's having a drink with Carolyn now!

Suzanne Sell - January 12, 2016 at 08:49 AM

CW

“ Fred and Robin, So sorry to hear of Diane's passing. I know she will be greatly missed. In sympathy.

---

**Connie and Bill Wymer** - January 12, 2016 at 07:13 AM

CS

“ Diane Dowden

---

**Chad Schuchert** - January 11, 2016 at 04:55 PM

RN

“ Dear Fred and Robin,

*Our deepest sympathies on the loss of Diane.*

*Barb and Randy Newlin*

---

**Randy Newlin** - January 11, 2016 at 07:42 AM

PR

“ I met Diane as a resident of Orleans. Diane was so fun to visit with always full of helpful ideas. I remember how she spent part of her life taking care of her dad. As I saw her out at Hilltop the last years; I thought of what a wonderful woman we have lost. I am glad she is at peace.

---

**Peggy Rick** - January 09, 2016 at 11:19 AM

BS

“ Diane Dowden

---

**Bob and Kate Shaw** - January 08, 2016 at 10:20 AM

DC

“ *Diane Dowden*

---

**David and Martha Chozen** - January 07, 2016 at 06:07 PM

LH

“ *I had the pleasure of meeting Diane 2 years ago and enjoyed every minute of her company. I loved to play the piano or trumpet for her or just sing to her. Rest in peace, my friend.*

*Laura Hanna*

---

**Laura Hanna** - January 07, 2016 at 05:47 PM