



Retha Ray

March 20, 1927 - August 23, 2020

Retha Ray, 93, of Oskaloosa passed away Sunday evening, August 23, 2020, at the Mahaska Health Serenity Hospice House in Oskaloosa.

Retha Miriam (Nash) Ray was born March 20, 1927, to Clarence Madison and Florence Mae Rockwell Nash at the rural home of her parents north of Cedar, Iowa. She was educated at the Cedar Consolidated School and attended high school in Oskaloosa. Following high school, Retha worked at the Nieswanger Café and Green & Bently Drug Store as a pharmacy technician. December 22, 1958, Retha married Donald Ray in Richmond, Texas. In 1970, she and Don moved to Aurora, Colorado, where Don worked in the construction of the Cherry Creek Dam. The couple then moved to Hawaii, where they resided for two years before returning to Colorado, where they lived in Craig from 1975 to 1981. While living there, Retha served as a personnel manager for K-Mart. Retha and Don then moved to Marshalltown, where she helped with the opening of a new K-Mart Store. In 1982, they returned to Oskaloosa, where they operated the King Lear Motel for ten years, retiring in 1992. Retha loved to cook; she was an avid reader and, in her younger years, served as a Boy Scout Leader.

She is survived by three daughters; Cherie and Don Young of Montezuma, IA, Sharon Ramona Burris of Oklahoma City, OK, and Linda and Ted Smith of Beacon, and two sons: Don and Judy Ray of Carlisle, and Gary and Maxine De Wild of Denver, Colorado; ten grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren; and several nephews and nieces.

Retha is preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Don, of over 50 years; a son, Steven; a son-in-law, Vernon Burris; and her siblings and their spouses: Roberta and Floyd Richardson, Clarence, and Jeanne Nash Jr. Ruth and Raymond Towns and Reba and Wayne McWilliams.

Funeral Service for Retha will be held at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, August 26, 2020, at Langkamp Funeral Chapel in Oskaloosa with Reverend Molly Goodrich of the First Christian Church officiating. Burial will be at 2 p.m., Wednesday afternoon in the Iowa Veterans Cemetery near Adel, Iowa.

Visitation will begin at 11 a.m., Tuesday at the funeral chapel; the family will greet visitors from 5-7 p.m. According to the rules put in place by the Iowa Department of Public Health, proper social distancing and reasonable personal protective equipment are advised for attending this public event. The service will be available to view on the Langkamp Funeral Chapel's YouTube channel Wednesday afternoon for those unable to attend the ceremony.

Memorial contributions can be made to the American Legion Post #34.

Previous Events

Open Visitation

AUG **25**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory
2116 N 3rd St
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
(641) 672-2181
langkampfuneralchapel@gmail.com
<https://www.langkampfuneralchapel.com>

Family Greeting Time

AUG **25**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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Funeral Service

AUG **26**. 10:30 AM (CT)

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Burial

AUG **26**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Iowa Veterans Cemetery
34024 Veterans Memorial Drive
Adel, IA 50003-3300
<https://va.iowa.gov/cemetery>

Tribute Wall



“ *Retha Ray*

October 05, 2023 at 11:57 PM



“ *Sherry lit a candle in memory of Retha Ray*



sherry - July 15, 2021 at 08:37 AM

LB

“ Don and my father were best friends in high and in the years following. When he married Retha, Don and she became my parents' good friends until my parents' deaths.

My mother always said Retha was the best thing that ever happened to Don. She was incredibly kind and generous to me and all my family. Always. My husband adored her, and she was always so very sweet to him.

I loved our trips to the mall in Des Moines, our girls' lunches and dinners. She always had something kind and positive to say about everyone. When I last saw her at her 90th birthday party, she looked like she was 50 years old at the most. She was radiant, charming and as positive as ever.

I will miss her so much. She was a wonderful role model. I will never forget the many things she did to help me when I was struggling with serious health issues. I only wish I could have spared her from the health difficulty she's endured over the last few years. Her wonderfully supportive family and friends will miss her, but we know she's safely home now. And we'll see her again. Love and prayers to her family. Niece, Linda Bosso

Linda Bosso - August 26, 2020 at 03:57 PM

LW

She loved you and your family. Linda ❤️❤️ Thank you for such beautiful words of her

Leisa Wright - August 26, 2020 at 07:47 PM



I know she did. And I loved her to the moon and back too. I'm grateful that angel was part of my life for so many years, Leisa!

Linda Bosso - September 02, 2020 at 05:36 PM

BA

“ She and Don were introduced to Gary and I a few months after buying the King Lear (Red Carpet Inn). They were two of the most generous. lovable people we knew. Her lovely smile and positive attitude were my favorite memories of her. RIP, my dear friend!!

Becke Arnold - August 25, 2020 at 05:32 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Retha Ray.



August 25, 2020 at 10:16 AM



“ Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Retha Ray.



August 25, 2020 at 09:00 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Retha Ray.



August 24, 2020 at 11:22 PM

DF

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Diana Fryer - August 24, 2020 at 08:00 PM

DF

“ I am so sorry to hear of Rethas passing. She was a real lady. Always decked out in her best. Loved having her in our Bible Story group. She loved singing and memorized new songs. I will miss this beautiful woman.

Diana Fryer - August 24, 2020 at 07:57 PM



“ Retha was a very Dear Lady and Loved Life to the fullest. Very kind, generous, and Beautiful inside out. I was Blessed to have known her and care for her these past few years .This is one lady I will forever cherish and hold close to my Heart. Rest in Peace Dearest Retha!



Kathy Fleener Dalbey - August 24, 2020 at 06:48 PM



“ Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Retha Ray.



August 24, 2020 at 06:20 PM