



## Dean Dixon

January 16, 1924 - October 7, 2018

The mortal life of Dean LaVerne Dixon, age 94 years, came to an end the evening of October 7, 2018, at the Hospice House in Ottumwa, Iowa. This great and good man was born January 16, 1924, in Bloomfield, Iowa, the firstborn child of Lester C. and Ruby N. Rees Dixon. He was raised in Bloomfield and spent his entire life in Davis County aside from his time in the service in World War II. His memory remained undimmed until the day of his passing, and he often recounted the stories of his growing up in depression days with his siblings. He recalled the Sheriff coming to the door of his father's new home with eviction papers when they let the property go for taxes during those hard times. After that, they spent a hardscrabble year on a rented farm near Mark, before returning to the city.

During the war, Dean, served on the USS Hammerhead, a submarine in the South Pacific based out of Fremantle, western Australia. He frequently fondly related the tales of his adventures in Australia and on the submarine. His stories included tales of attacks on enemy ships, being chased by depth charges from enemy vessels, and the sub picking up a navigator adrift in the Pacific from a downed B-24. His submarine was at Saipan, when unbeknownst to the crew, the atomic bomb destined to be dropped on Hiroshima in 1945 was at the B-29 base at the adjacent island of Tinian, where the sailors watched the bombers mass for their bombing runs on Japan. He likewise regaled family members with tales of hijinks about driving officers on leave from war patrols around Perth Australia.

After his discharge in 1946, he returned to Bloomfield where he married Dorothy M. Gordy on September 1, 1946. In 1953, they built the home in Bloomfield where they would live the balance of their lives in a home filled with love and security. After working with his brother-in-law and close friend, John Willcoxson, hauling lime for a number of years, he bought and operated Bloomfield Oil Company until his retirement. He was a member of the Bloomfield Methodist Church, and was active in the American Legion until the end. He also served on the Bloomfield City Council. He and Dorothy enjoyed boating with their children and grandchildren, and Dean remained an avid golfer, playing actively until he was 93 years of age. After his daughter, Dana, had married and moved to New York, they would return and spend their summers in Bloomfield with their children while they were

young. Dean and Dorothy were able to travel extensively throughout the country during their life together with their friends and their daughter, Dana and her husband David, who they regularly visited in upstate New York. They were able to visit all fifty states.

Dean was always the rock of the family, and his calm patient manner and knowledge always sustained those around him. His wife, Dorothy, preceded him in death January 8, 2016, after sixty-nine years of marriage. The memories of this remarkable, unassuming man will always be treasured by his family, his Legion comrades in arms, and his golfing partners.

He is survived by his daughter, Dana L. (David) O'Brien of Waterville, New York; son, David D. (Patricia) Dixon of Oskaloosa, Iowa; four grandchildren, Allison (Jason) Heller of Clifton Park, New York, Ian O'Brien of Waterville, New York, Laura (Teague) Smith of Las Vegas, Nevada, Erin (Jesse) Godden of Bellevue, Nebraska; 12 great-grandchildren, Max Heller, Peter Heller, Charlie Heller, Dean O'Brien (named after his great-grandfather), Henry O'Brien, Maeve O'Brien, Eva Smith, Teagan Smith, Violet Smith, Rebecca Smith, Jaxton Godden, Alexia Godden; two brothers, Gene (Jerri) Dixon of Centerville, Iowa, Jack (Jeannie) Dixon of Bloomfield; sister, Karen (Bruce) Rosengren of Plymouth, Minnesota; and two sisters-in-law, JoAnn Dixon and Sandy Dixon.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife; sister, Virginia Dixon (1944); and two brothers, Bill and Larry Dixon.

Graveside services with burial of the cremated remains will be at noon on Saturday, October 20, 2018, at the IOOF Cemetery in Bloomfield with Rev. Tim Frasher officiating. Military rites will be performed by Reed-Whisler Post #78 of the American Legion. Visitation with family present to greet friends will be from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the procession to the IOOF cemetery at the Wagler Funeral Home in Bloomfield on Saturday. In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established to Reed-Whisler Post #78 of the American Legion, which was always close to Dean's heart.

# Cemetery

---

## **IOOF Cemetery**

620 North Madison Street  
Bloomfield, IA, 52537

# Events

---

**OCT 20 Visitation 10:00AM - 11:45AM**

---

Wagler Funeral Home  
304 West Jefferson Street, Bloomfield, IA, US, 52537

**OCT 20 Graveside Services 12:00PM - 12:30PM**

---

IOOF Cemetery  
620 North Madison Street, Bloomfield, IA, US, 52537

# Comments

---



“ A tribute video has been added.



**Wagler Funeral Home** - October 17, 2018 at 12:31 PM

---



“ Steve Kinnamon lit a candle in memory of Dean Dixon



**Steve Kinnamon** - October 17, 2018 at 07:30 PM

---



“ Just wanted the family to know Vicki & I want to express our sincere feeling of loss with the passing of your father Dean. Dean was a great friend while working with him at BloomfieldOil. We appreciated all Dean and Dorthy did for us through our time owning the business. Dean will be missed by all who knew him.

**Steve Kinnamon** - October 17, 2018 at 07:28 PM

---



“ Dean carried our fuel for many years. He was always so friendly and always said hello and stopped to talk when we saw him out in the community. Lifting his family in prayer for comfort. God is near. Just reach out to Him. Mary and Teddy Cary



**Mary Cary** - October 17, 2018 at 12:06 PM

---



“ 160 files added to the album LifeTributes



Wagler Funeral Home - October 17, 2018 at 11:12 AM

---



“ Dean always had a smile, joke and a story to tell. He will be missed by all that knew him. Prayers for his family and friends. I know that I will miss him.  
Terry L. Bradley, Director  
Davis County Veterans Affairs

Terry L. Bradley - October 11, 2018 at 04:09 PM

---



“ Uncle Dean was always a very happy person, He will be missed by all, Dean you were the greatest dancer. RIP you will by all, you would always give the shirt off your back to anyone In need

Karen Willcoxson - October 11, 2018 at 10:38 AM

---



“ Uncle Dean was the most positive, upbeat, practical man I have ever known. He enjoyed life, worked hard and took things in stride. A man to be respected and admired.  
I spent so much time at the Dixon house when I was growing up; it was a wonderful place to be. Uncle Dean was always so calm. I remember Aunt Dorothy talking about him taking a bath one day and one of the neighbor kids barging in to use the bathroom, he didn't miss a beat, just finished his bath.  
Aunt Dorothy and Uncle Dean hosted Esther dinner for many years; Uncle Dean made the best ham and gravy! I have the recipe, but sure haven't mastered it the way he did. After dinner, we would all go outside to have a family picture taken on the front porch. This was a family gathering I looked forward to every year.  
Uncle Dean made the yummiest toffee at Christmas. I was lucky enough to receive some along with Aunt Dorothy's fudge. Yes, I took it home to share, but I kept a few extra pieces of toffee just for me. Melt in your mouth wonderful.  
The Christmas Tour of Homes was another favorite. Aunt Dorothy and Uncle Dean had a van when we started going many years ago. He would pick up Delpha, Lana, JoAnn, Mom and I to drive us around to the houses. Mom would bring him a package of her date pinwheel cookies and some fudge, he enjoyed his treats while we toured. Uncle Dean would pull up as close as he could to the houses, we would all hop out

and look to our hearts' content. Uncle Dean would patiently wait and watch, then when he saw us coming out, get as close as possible to pick us up. I bet we were the envy of all the ladies. We had so much fun.

Saying good-bye to Uncle Dean is hard, he was a second Dad for me. I am glad I have so many wonderful memories to remember him by. I will cherish all of them.

**Ramona Archer** - October 11, 2018 at 09:32 AM

---



## “ UNCLE DEAN

I always enjoyed being around Uncle Dean. He had that great baritone voice, was witty and told stories well. And then, there was that tattoo on his forearm honoring his submarine “Hammerhead”. Whenever I visited I always looked for the picture he kept of the Hammerhead as it was breaking surface. When it was time for me to do my service, it was Uncle Dean’s influence that brought me to enlist in the Navy and to specify submarine duty. Problem was, I couldn’t get past the physical. My draft status went from 1-A to 4-F. And yet, 75 years old and I am still here. Uncle Dean was always loyal to family, friends, submarine veterans and the Legion. You never had doubt where he stood.

Uncle Dean, I know there were many waiting to greet you as you made your passage and when I make mine you are one I will be looking for. ANCHORS AWEIGH UNCLE DEAN. ANCHORS AWEIGH.

Ron Doll

**Ron Doll** - October 11, 2018 at 09:22 AM

---



“ Condolences to the family! Dean was a cousin and was a good man who was always there to help a veteran in need! I thank him for his service to his country! R.I.P. Dean your rest in heaven is well deserved!

**Phillip Mathews** - October 11, 2018 at 08:50 AM