



## Denzyl L. Harbour

November 21, 1921 - May 30, 2016

Denzyl L. Harbour, 94, of rural Bloomfield, Iowa passed away May 30, 2016 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City. He was born November 21, 1921 to Thomas Joel and Beryle Lockman Harbour near Belknap in Davis County, Iowa. His early years were spent in one-room rural schools in Colorado and Davis County. He attended Bloomfield High School where he met his future wife, Nancy Dixon of rural Moulton, Iowa. The couple were married in Lancaster, Missouri on April 17, 1947 and lived in western Davis County raising a daughter, Dena Sue and a son, Dennis. Nancy passed away on March 30, 2007 just two weeks shy of their 60-year-anniversary.

After graduating from High School in 1940, Denzyl taught at Hamm Rural School and then was drafted in the U.S. Army Signal Corp. He would serve in the southern United States, England, northern France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Germany, and "The Battle of the Bulge." He drove a service truck and, with a small crew, installed communication systems in the 3rd and 5th armored front line tanks and armored carriers. He was honorably discharge on his 24th birthday.

In January 1946, he started working for Dain Manufacturing Company which would later become John Deere Ottumwa Works. After working for 41 years, he retired from the Field Test Department and was the last of the Dain employees to retire. While working for John Deere he helped develop

experimental farm machinery of all types for various field and crop conditions.

Denzyl was a Scout Master of Troop 91 in Bloomfield for several years and helped with various camping trips and other activities including two trips to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

He is survived by a son, Dennis (Julie) Harbour of Bloomfield; daughter, Dena Sue Harbour of Bloomfield; six grandchildren, Travis (Jayne) Hartman, Tara (Tommy) Schlieper, Lindsey (David) Essary, Amy (Clinton) Urnez, Joshua Reed, Elizabeth Emmerich; eleven great-grandchildren; sister, Wila Harter of Bloomfield; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife; and brother, Dwight Harbour.

Graveside services with scattering of the cremated remains will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 28, 2016 at the Harbour Cemetery in Davis County with Pastor Dan Smith officiating. Military rites will be performed by Reed-Whisler Post #78 of the American Legion. A memorial has been established to the Davis County Historical Society.

# Previous Events

## Graveside Services

JUN **28**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Harbour Cemetery  
14540 Kress Ave  
Bloomfield, IA 52537

# Tribute Wall



“ *Denzyl L. Harbour*

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January 28, 2023 at 10:57 AM



“ *Denzyl and I worked together on several test projects at John Deere Ottumwa Works. Probably the most fun was hay cuber tests in Arizona where Denzyl was the "yellow truck driver". Also, he applied a lot of stresscoat and strain gages for me at the plant. I got to know Dennis as well. My sympathy goes out to everyone. Larry Cofer*

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**Larry Cofer** - June 23, 2016 at 06:35 PM

BS

“ I met Denzyl after my husband, Doug, and I purchased property close by. Doug so wanted me to meet this neighbor, Denzyl. Denzyl had a pond, a farm, a workshop and he knew stuff. Doug told me how old Denzyl was; the first time I met him I was surprised that he was outside in the workshop in the winter welding something. Doug was so delighted to have Denzyl's advice and help. I remember taking a picture of the two outside our cabin with our dog, Leah, and thinking, "That man has been such a great friend to Doug. I want to make that man a quilt." I enjoyed picking out John Deere fabric and presenting him with a quilt that year. I also like to run and it was fun for me to run by Denzyl's house and give him a wave, whether I could see him or not. Often he would come out and catch me with a wave on my return trip. Whenever I see anything made with blueberries, I think of Denzyl and of how Doug enjoyed picking him up and going to Riverside for blueberry waffles. I bet Doug is planning a trip there soon to order some up in Denzyl's honor.

*Becky Swinton*

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**Becky Swinton** - May 31, 2016 at 10:04 AM

DS

“ I believe that sometimes someone comes into our life just when we really need that person. And Denzyl was that person for me. I met Denzyl in 2008 after I had purchased turkey hunting ground a mile south of his farm. I didn't know anyone in the area., but I like to fish and he had a pond. I stopped in to ask about fishing and we ended up visiting for hours, sharing my lunch of sandwiches and cold orange sodas on the tailgate of my truck. I thought he was lonely; he had lost his wife, Nancy, about a year before. And so began our friendship.

I didn't know anything about owning land, farming or farm equipment and Denzyl quickly figured out I was a greenhorn. I asked his advice often and was glad to have it... and the help he gave me in the many tasks involved in improving our property. I was still working my regular job and only at my place on weekends. I was so glad Denzyl accepted the key to our cabin and was willing to keep an eye on the place for us. I had lost my father at a young age and Denzyl was the perfect stand in. He took me under his wing; he tutored, mentored and taught me so much that I found a confidence I didn't know I had. Above all he became a great friend - always kind, considerate and happy to see me when I came over and happy to talk to me when I called. He was so influential in my life, I can't imagine not having known him.

Doug Swinton

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**Doug Swinton** - May 31, 2016 at 09:51 AM

JH

“ I was honored to have been Denzyl's daughter-in-law for almost 41 years. I love him as my own father and privileged to be his primary caregiver for over a year, since he moved in with us in May, 2015. Over the years we've shared a lot of laughs, a few tears and very much love and respect. Thank you, Dad for everything you've done for us, taught us and let us do for you. Rest now, and breathe easily.

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**Julie Harbour** - May 30, 2016 at 04:48 PM