



James Davis

October 31, 1929 - July 27, 2025

James Edward Davis, 95, of Bloomfield, Iowa, passed away July 27, 2025, at the home of his son, Roland Davis, in Ottumwa. Born November 1, 1929 on the family farm between West Grove and Moulton, Iowa, to Silas Austin and Mildred Ruth (Spurgeon) Davis, James celebrated that as his birthday until discovering his legal birthdate was October 31, 1929, after obtaining his birth certificate to join the Navy. He enjoyed teasing his children that they were celebrating his birthday on the wrong day no matter which day they chose.

While on leave from the Navy James married Betty Elaine Hancock on November 27, 1948, in Bloomfield, and together they had seven children. He served in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Midway (CVB 41), then spent a short time working as a milk tester for the government before starting his lifelong career as a truck driver. His love of driving began when his father purchased their first tractor. It influenced his decision in where to attend high school, opting to attend Bloomfield HS over the much closer Moulton HS, and led to him meeting Betty when a friend introduced them as they were driving around the Bloomfield square. In his words, when he got his tractor-trailer license he “never did a lick of work after that.” He enjoyed reminiscing about his time in the Navy, farming, and following football. He loved family gatherings, reunions, and playing with grandchildren. If you were about to travel anywhere he could advise you what exits to take or avoid, best time to travel, local landmarks and places to stop and eat years after he had last driven a route in that area.

James is survived by six children, Cindy (Ken) Gordy, Mike (Bonny) Davis, Roland Davis, Dan Davis, Nita (David) O'Brien, and Carol (Ron) Reed; 26 grandchildren; 64 great-grandchildren; 16 great-great-grandchildren (with 2 more on the way); a sister, Barbara Ann (Bob) Walker; and a brother, Merrill Douglas (Carol) Davis.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Betty Elaine Davis; son, Marion Davis; daughter-in-law, Linda Davis; a brother, Charles Allen (Bonnie) Davis; and his parents.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 2, 2025, at Wagler Funeral Home. Burial will follow at the IOOF Cemetery in Bloomfield. Visitation will begin at 1:00pm Friday, with the family present from 5-7:00 p.m. at Wagler Funeral Home.

A memorial has been established to the Friends of the Bloomfield Public Library.

Cemetery Details

IOOF Cemetery

620 North Madison Street
Bloomfield, IA 52537

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 1. 1:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Wagler Funeral Home
304 West Jefferson Street
Bloomfield, IA 52537
(641) 664-3421
<https://www.waglerfuneralhome.com/>

Visitation with Family Present

AUG 1. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Wagler Funeral Home
304 West Jefferson Street
Bloomfield, IA 52537
(641) 664-3421
<https://www.waglerfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Service

AUG 2. 10:30 AM (CT)

Wagler Funeral Home
304 West Jefferson Street
Bloomfield, IA 52537
(641) 664-3421
<https://www.waglerfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall

MM

“ *Mo Maher sent a virtual gift in memory of James Davis*



Mo Maher - July 31, 2025 at 01:37 PM

BC

“ *Barbara and Bob, Merrill and Carol purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of James Davis.*



Barbara and Bob, Merrill and Carol - July 30, 2025 at 02:41 PM

ZK

“ *Zack, Jenn, Wyatt, Ericka, Aidan, Kaia planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Davis.*

Zack, Jenn, Wyatt, Ericka, Aidan, Kaia - July 30, 2025 at 11:21 AM

ZK

“ *Zack, Jenn, Wyatt, Ericka, Aidan, Kaia purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of James Davis.*



Zack, Jenn, Wyatt, Ericka, Aidan, Kaia - July 30, 2025 at 11:21 AM



“ Lynn lit a candle in memory of James Davis



Lynn - July 29, 2025 at 11:20 AM



“ As "shirt-tail" members of the extended family, Ronnie and I have spent many Independence Days watching the 4th of July parade from Grandpa Jim's front yard. He always had such fun watching the great grandchildren that were in attendance as they collected the thrown candy. We always appreciated his hospitality in allowing us to be included in the fun. Good memories to be cherished.

Kathy Moore - July 28, 2025 at 07:38 PM