



Birchard A. Holden

March 24, 1923 - May 28, 2018

Birchard A. "Birch" Holden, age 95, died Monday, May 28, 2018, at the United Presbyterian Home in Washington, Iowa, following a short illness.

Celebration of life services will be held 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 5, 2018, at the United Presbyterian Home Main Dining Room with Chaplain Andrew Zuehlke officiating. Interment with military honors will take place that afternoon (Tuesday, June 5th) at 2:30 p.m. at Davenport Memorial Park in Davenport, Iowa.

Birchard Allen Holden was born March 24, 1923, in Illinois City, Illinois, the son of Glenn Benjamin and Laura Marie (Warner) Holden. He graduated from Washington High School in Washington, Iowa, in 1941. Birch served honorably in the United States Navy from 1943 until 1946, stationed in Africa and proudly took part in the 1945 "shakedown" cruise of the newly commissioned aircraft carrier, USS Franklin D. Roosevelt.

After the war, Birch met his wife, Mary Marshall Sadler, in Richmond and they were married on March 27, 1948, in Irvington, Virginia. They soon moved to Scott County Iowa, living in Davenport and settling in Eldridge where they raised their family.

Along with his brothers, Edgar and Charles, Birch worked in the propane business and briefly operated a truck stop on Hwy 6. Eventually, they purchased land and opened the Edgetowner Restaurant in Mt. Joy, which was a local landmark for over 20 years.

In recent years, Birch lived in Richmond, VA; Sun City, AZ; and Rolla, MO; before moving back to his childhood roots of Washington, Iowa in 2014 where he was a member of the United Presbyterian Church. Birch enjoyed golf, Cardinals baseball, reading, reminiscing and was an avid Iowa Hawkeye Sports Fan.

He is survived by three daughters: Donna Holden of Waynesville, MO; Linda Holden of Yankton, SD; Lori Gallegos and husband Les of Chandler, AZ; five grandchildren: Rachael, Danielle, Brock, Chelby and Heather. He is also survived by his brother, Harvey

Holden and wife Mary of Washington, IA; sister, Virginia Dunville of Roanoke, VA; and brother-in-law, Stewart Shotwell of Richmond, VA.

Birch was preceded in death by his wife in 2007; son, Stephen Allen Holden in 2002; two brothers, Edgar and Charles; two sisters, Helen Larsen and Lila Shotwell; three sisters-in-law, Ruth, Rachel and Mildred; and two brothers-in-law, Dorman Dunville and James Larsen.

Jones & Eden Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements and online condolences may be sent for Birch's family through their website www.jonesfh.com. Memorials have been established for the Wounded Warrior Project.

Cemetery

Davenport Memorial Cemetery

Davenport, IA,

Events

JUN 5 **Celebration of Life** 10:00AM

United Presbyterian Home

1203 E. Washington Street, Washington, IA, US,
52353

JUN 5 **Graveside Service** 02:30PM

Davenport Memorial Cemetery
Davenport, IA, US

Comments



“ My condolences to you all on the passing of Birch. Chuck and I both were fortunate to work weekends for Birch during part of our high school years. Birch made it clear to all that school should come first and to let him know when we needed time off because we were only a kid once in life. He was a wise and wonderful man and he made a positive indelible impression on my life.
Sincerely, Chuck and Michelle (Baughman) Allaman

Michelle Allaman - June 14, 2018 at 06:35 AM



“ Dear Holden girls: Saddened to hear of your loss. Your father was a really nifty man and certainly touched a multitude of lives, both young and old. Kind hearted (to a fault), bless his soul. I have wonderful memories of him and the staff and patrons of the Edgetowner Restaurant. God doesn't make them like that anymore. LuAnn (Peters) Sewell, Lincoln, NE

LuAnn Sewell - June 06, 2018 at 05:59 PM



“ Mary E Ballard purchased the Violets And Butterflies for the family of Birchard A. Holden.



Mary E Ballard - June 04, 2018 at 03:34 PM



“ I was fortunate and a bit spoiled to have Birch as my first boss. He was a great boss, always helping staff. He created a great working environment for a bunch of high school kids. He was kind enough to take me back on college breaks. My memories are of a sweet and jovial man. The leadership skills he unknowingly taught will live beyond him. I'm saddened by your loss.

Mary Thee

Mary - June 03, 2018 at 08:31 PM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Birchard A. Holden.



June 03, 2018 at 12:11 PM



“ What a kind, thoughtful man. Never one to over react, he was such a leader when it came to dealing with the truckers or other crazies that would wander into the Edgetowner restaurant. I learned so much from him when I think back about how you treat others. We need more people like him around...condolences to the family of this beautiful man...

cindy - June 03, 2018 at 12:08 PM



“ My sincere sympathy to the entire family. I have fond memories of the Holden family, spending time at their house in Eldridge and stopping by the Edgetowner for something good to eat. Hold on to your precious memories. Jani Claussen Telleen

Jani Claussen Telleen - June 02, 2018 at 08:40 AM



“ 5 files added to the album With Family



lori holden gallegos - June 01, 2018 at 04:35 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Birchard A. Holden.





“ My sincerest condolences to Birch’s family. He and my mother, Roberta, were high school classmates, and I got to know Birch through Mom’s visits to Washington, IA. He is one of the kindest and most thoughtful persons I have ever met, and I know he will be greatly missed.

Molly Daniel - May 29, 2018 at 11:43 PM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Molly Daniel - May 29, 2018 at 11:40 PM



“ Donna, Linda, Lori,

Our hearts and prayers are with you at this time. We're proud to be Birch, Mary and the girls neighbors in Eldridge, and all the great times we had, even working on his brother's campaign once doing a mass mailing. Dinners at the restaurant were always fun, my brother Rich's first job was there, wrapping baked potatoes. We'll never forget when Steve had to fly back and didn't have a uniform to wear, so he wore my dad's uniform from WW2. I'm sure Birch and Mary are looking down, smiling at Donna, Linda, Rich, Lori and myself playing mumblety peg in the front yard!

Richard, Mathew and Walter and families

Mat - June 04, 2018 at 07:00 PM



“ Donna, Linda and Lori:

I am so sorry to learn of Birch's passing. He was a truly special individual. So kind, patient and funny, and always the consummate host at The Edgetowner and at your home. Keep memories of your dad close to your heart.

With love and best wishes,

Karen (Lage) Potratz

Karen - June 07, 2018 at 09:01 PM