



## Dortha Jean Chelar

October 3, 1923 - September 1, 2017

Dortha Jane (Kenton) Chelar, age 93 of Albia, passed away Friday, September 1, 2017, at the Golden Age Care in Centerville, Iowa.

Dortha was born on October 3, 1923, to John and Ina (Seiber) Kenton, on the family farm in rural Lucas County, Iowa. When she was 12, the family moved to a farm near Moravia. She graduated from Moravia High School in 1941. Her parents both passed away by the time she was 20, and with her brothers, Roy and John, both away in the Navy, Dortha and her sister, Ruth, took over the operation of their farm. It was said the girls could harness a team and work the fields as good as the men. Dortha learned to be a strong, independent woman at a young age.

Dortha met and married Frank Chelar on January 14, 1951. They had 3 children, Elaine, Doris and Gale. The family lived on the dairy farm north of Hiteman the rest of her life.

Dortha was an active life-long member of Trinity Methodist Church where she participated in the bell choir, Country Gospel, was a Sunday school teacher, and served on the funeral dinner committee. She was past President of the Monroe County Hospital Auxiliary. She and Frank were inducted into the Farm Bureau Hall of Fame, and their farm was named both a Century Farm and Heritage Farm at the Iowa State Fair by the Iowa Secretary of Agriculture.

Dortha is survived by her daughter, Doris Little of Albia; her son, Gale (Ursula) Chelar of Columbus, GA; 3 grandchildren, Jeremy (Kathy) Little of Edgerton, KS, Dan (Jenny) Little and Jennifer Little of Albia; and 3 great-grandchildren, Aidan, Lenora, and Austin. She is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents, John and Ina; her husband, Frank; a daughter, Elaine; brothers, Roy and John; and a sister, Ruth.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, September 6, 2017, at Trinity United Methodist Church in Albia, with Pastor Richard Grimes officiating. Burial will follow the service at Union Chapel Cemetery in rural Monroe County.

Visitation will begin at 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 5, 2017, at the Tharp Funeral Home in Albia, with Dortha's family present throughout to greet family and friends.

A memorial has been established to Union Chapel Cemetery.

# Cemetery Details

## Union Chapel Cemetery

Albia, IA 52531

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 5. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Tharp Funeral Home  
116 Benton Ave.  
Albia, IA 52531  
(641) 932-3129  
<https://www.tharpfh.com/>

## Funeral Service

SEP 6. 10:30 AM (CT)

Trinity United Methodist Church  
1117 Benton Ave East  
Albia, IA 52531

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dortha Jean Chelar*

January 30, 2023 at 05:06 AM



“ *Dortha Jean Chelar*

January 30, 2023 at 02:53 AM



“ *Doris, I visited Union Chapel Cemetery recently. I noticed your parents stone. I was not aware that your mother had passed. Please accept my condolences not only for her passing, but for her discomfort over the past several years. I'm glad we talked a few months ago. I admire your strength and wisdom. Take care and be well. Max Maddy.*

**Max Maddy** - November 06, 2017 at 04:59 PM



“ *Doris, I'm so sorry you've lost your mom. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

**Nancy Allison** - September 06, 2017 at 04:40 PM



“ *Kathy and Jim Kenton purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dortha Jean Chelar.*



**Kathy and Jim Kenton** - September 05, 2017 at 01:35 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Dortha Jean Chelar.*



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September 05, 2017 at 01:32 PM



“ *Linda Franzen purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Dortha Jean Chelar.*



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**Linda Franzen** - September 03, 2017 at 10:30 PM



“ *To the Chelar Family-*

*Very sorry for your loss. I know this has been a long struggle for my Sunday School teacher. Both at the Hiteman church (if memory serves) and also in Albia. Good Hiteman neighbors. Rest In Peace.*

*Bobby Blackburn family*

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**Bob Blackburn** - September 03, 2017 at 08:26 AM

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“ *Doris and family,  
I did not know your mother but it sounds like she was a very hard  
working and generous volunteer to her church and the community.  
May she rest in peace and you be comforted by your good  
memories.*  
*Susan and David Beary, Lovilia*

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**susan** - September 02, 2017 at 04:23 PM

WM

“ *Will & Wanda Pollitt and Dale & Susan  
McFarland purchased the Fairest of All for the  
family of Dortha Jean Chelar.*



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**Will & Wanda Pollitt and Dale & Susan McFarland** -  
September 02, 2017 at 04:02 PM