



## John Harold Benson

July 18, 1932 - January 17, 2021

John "Harold" Benson, age 88, of Albia, passed away on Sunday, January 17, 2021, at the Monroe Care Center in Albia, IA.

Harold was born on July 18, 1932, to Albert and Mabel (Johnson) Benson in Monroe County. He grew up in Albia, IA and graduated from Albia Community High School in 1951. On October 20, 1954, he was united in marriage to Agnes Cottrell in Centerville, IA. Harold and Agnes shared 47 years of marriage prior to Agnes' passing in 2001. Harold married Mardyll Albertson in 2002.

Harold grew up on his family's farm and continued to farm throughout his life. He spent 33 dedicated years driving a school bus for the Albia Community School District. In his free time, Harold enjoyed square dancing, card playing, riding his motorcycle, retirement traveling, spending winters in Texas and occasionally being mischievous. Harold received many trophies throughout the years from the Iowa Horseshoe Pitching Association and local tournaments. He was a County Trustee and sat on the Monroe County Farm Bureau Board where he and Mardyll were inducted into the Farm Bureau Ag Hall of Fame. Harold also served as President of the Albia Lad's and Lassie's Square Dance Club. He was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Harold will be remembered as a great husband, father, grandfather and friend

to many. He is survived by his wife, Mardyll Benson; 3 children, Catherine Benson, Don (Cara) Benson and Doug (Kathy) Benson; a stepdaughter, Marla Carr; a stepson, Gary Albertson; 8 grandchildren, Andrew (Angela) Coe, Josh (Ashley) Littlejohn, Heidi (Josh) Ragen, Thomas (Tonia) Benson, Lucille (Caleb) Brewer, Emmalee (Clayton) Casady, Anna (Jason See) Kerber, Rachel Benson, Bryan Carr and Eric (Michelle) Carr; his great-grandchildren Izaiah Littlejohn, Dakota Fontinel, Ethan, Riley & Launa Ragen, Henry Benson, Jett & Luke Casady and Nile & Hudson Carr. Harold is also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Agnes; his parents, Albert and Mabel; a sister, Grace Benson; three brothers, Paul, Wayne and Fred Benson; brothers-in-law, Don Marshall and Gene Cottrell; sisters-in-law, Viola and Dorothy Benson; and a stepson-in-law, Jerry Carr.

Visitation will be held from 11:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, at the Tharp Funeral Home in Albia with Harold's family present from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

A private family funeral service will be held on Wednesday, January 20, 2021, at the Tharp Funeral Home in Albia, with Rev. Karen Ullestad and Pastor Roger Henry co-officiating. Burial will follow services at Oak View Cemetery in Albia.

Due to the most recent proclamation and enhanced public health measures for the state of Iowa, masks will be mandatory for those in attendance over the age of 2. The service will be livestreamed on the Tharp Funeral Home Facebook page.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 19. 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ *John Harold Benson*

January 30, 2023 at 05:06 AM



“ *John Harold Benson*

January 30, 2023 at 02:53 AM



“ *Harold was my bus driver when we live at the reservoir. So I good fellow!!! Kathy, Don, Doug and the rest of the family, so sorry for your loss! He was a good man!*

**Bryon Johannes** - January 20, 2021 at 09:37 PM



“ *Rode his bus all my school years .What a guy always had a smile for all the kids when they got on the bus and a good morning.I remember one time Tony Harris wanted to get off at our house so he hide down behind the bus seat when the other kids got off Mr. Beason said Tony are you back there he said no Mr.Beason.Harold just laugh and said you're home.My brother Mike got in trouble one time and Harold me him seat on the bus steps.When we got home that night Mom told Mike you tell Mr. Beason next time he would be washing his pants so when we got on the bus the next morning Mike told him what Mom had said he never got mad just gave Mike that smile he had and laughed.Carol Keegel Reed*

**Carol Keegel Reed** - January 19, 2021 at 12:10 PM

CR

“ *Carol Keegel Reed lit a candle in memory of John Harold Benson*



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**Carol Keegel Reed** - January 19, 2021 at 11:41 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Harold Benson.*



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January 18, 2021 at 04:16 PM

CS

“ *My deepest sympathies to Mardyll and family.*

*I've known Harold since the early 1960's through St. Paul's Church and The Lads and Lassies. In square dancing, I probably missed many hand offs during Do Si Dos because I was laughing so hard at something he'd said or done.*

*Harold was a good person and sure will be missed.*

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**Carol Stewart** - January 18, 2021 at 08:33 AM

RM

“ *Ruth Marshall purchased the Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet for the family of John Harold Benson.*



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**Ruth Marshall** - January 17, 2021 at 08:31 PM

CF

“ *Christine Socwell & family. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Harold Benson.*



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**Christine Socwell & family.** - January 17, 2021 at 08:22 PM

TT

“ *Herald was my bus driver for many years. I still remember my first day of school as a nervous kindergartner walking to the bus. The moment Herald greeted me with his sweet smile, told me everything would be ok and said I could sit up front right behind him it made it all better. I got to grow up and Herald always checked in, came and supported events at the fair. I have many fond memories of this great man. Hugs and prayers to the entire family.*

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**Tiffany (Strasko) Tremmel** - January 17, 2021 at 08:11 PM

KH

“ *I will always remember Harold with a sparkle in his eye, and a welcoming smile. He will be missed!*

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**Kathleen Hull** - January 17, 2021 at 07:37 PM

DB

“ RIP Harold.. My heart cries with the family. Harold was my only bus driver from Kindergarden thru 12th grade. My older sister and I were always the first pickup in the mornings at my parents “Ray & Jane Vitko’s country home and we were the last to be dropped off the bus after school on route #5. I Always enjoyed talking with Harold on the bus and whenever we would meet around Monroe county. Sincere Hugs to the family, Harold will be missed..Deb Ballalatak

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**Deb Ballalatak** - January 17, 2021 at 07:07 PM

LM

“ Harold drove my bus the entire time I rode it. He always greeted me with a smile and a kind word.  
Mardyll and family may you be comforted knowing Harold is dancing in heaven with Jesus

*Thoughts and prayers  
Lori (Hoven) Major*

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**Lori Major** - January 17, 2021 at 06:38 PM

JM

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you at this sorrowful time for your family.

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**Judy McDonald** - January 17, 2021 at 04:56 PM