



## Betty Pothast

November 30, 1928 - June 5, 2020

Betty Jane Pothast, age 91 of Fort Dodge, formerly of Spencer, died Friday June 5, 2020 at the Simpson Health Center, Friendship Haven in Fort Dodge. Graveside Services will be Friday, June 12th at 10:00 AM at North Lawn Cemetery, Spencer, Iowa. Celebration of Life to follow at 11:00 AM at the Convention Center, Clay County Fairgrounds. Gunderson Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Fort Dodge is entrusted with services.

Betty Jane (Bradley) Pothast the daughter of Loy Vern (Brad) and Wilma Jeanette (Murphy) Bradley was born November 30, 1928 in Omaha, NE.

Betty's early childhood years were spent in Oakland and Wakefield, NE. The family later moved to Red Oak, Iowa where she attended and graduated from Red Oak High School in 1946. She then attended and graduated from Iowa State University in 1950 with a degree in Home Economics.

Betty moved to Spencer, Iowa where she worked as a County Extension Home Economist. Prior to moving to Spencer she worked as a County home Economist in Cass County and in Prowers County, Colorado. Betty married Norman Pothast January 6, 1957 in Red Oak, Iowa, and the couple made their home on a farm near Spencer where they worked as partners in their farming operation raising purebred swine. Betty remained interested in farming all of her life.

Betty accompanied her husband on a People to People farm tour of Europe which was the beginnings of becoming a world traveler through her life. The couple hosted Japanese Foreign Exchange students. She was later employed by Iowa Lake Community College as a Learning Center Coordinator. Betty also worked for many years as a substitute teacher in the Spencer area.

For 22 years Betty served as a 4-H and Open Class Fair judge. She was a member of University Women, Questers, Federated Women's Club, Farm Bureau, Garden Club, First English Lutheran Church where she also taught Sunday School, Naomi Circle, Lake

Township Trustee, recipient of ISU Alumni Key Award and longtime Cyclone Supporter.

Betty Pothast was a strong woman in her own right. She spent her long life blessed with good health, happiness and a strong faith. Betty was a dedicated wife and mother who was loving, nurturing and supporting of her entire family. Betty encouraged others to do their best and her generosity to other will be remembered.

Betty is survived by her daughter Jean Silverman and life partner/spouse, Tim Irons, Sioux Falls, SD. Son: Grant (Kim) Pothast, New York, NY. Daughter: Ann (Chris) Knobbe, Fort Dodge, IA. Sister-in-law: Beverly Hanson, Stratford, IA. Grandchildren: Sarah Silverman, Molly Silverman (Mike Doucette), Morgan Pothast, Jake Pothast, Taylor Pothast, Charlie Pothast and Thomas Knobbe. Special Friend: Lowell Carlson, Dickens, IA. Nieces, nephews, cousins, along with a host of friends and relatives.

Betty was preceded in death by her husband Norman, parents Loy Vern (Brad and Wilma Bradley, infant sister: Bonnie Lee Bradley, brother: Rex Bradley, father and mother-in-laws: Earl and Elsie Pothast, brother-in-law: Derald Hanson.

Betty's strong woman wish was that in lieu of flowers, memorials be left to the First English Lutheran Church Pre-School, 1311 East 18th Street, Spencer, Iowa 51301.

# Events

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**JUN 12**   **Graveside Service**   10:00AM

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North Lawn Cemetery  
2208 Hwy Blvd, Spencer, IA, US, 51301

**JUN 12**   **Celebration Of Life**   11:00AM

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Convention Center, Clay County Fairgrounds  
Spencer, IA, US, 51301

# Comments

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October 30, 2020 at 11:59 AM

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October 28, 2020 at 02:42 PM

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October 28, 2020 at 02:31 PM

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October 28, 2020 at 02:15 PM

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October 28, 2020 at 01:53 PM

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October 28, 2020 at 07:25 AM

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October 28, 2020 at 06:59 AM

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October 28, 2020 at 06:38 AM

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October 28, 2020 at 06:14 AM

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October 26, 2020 at 03:09 PM

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October 26, 2020 at 02:45 PM

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October 26, 2020 at 02:23 PM

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October 26, 2020 at 01:58 PM

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“ Anne, Jean and Grant,

There are not enough words to describe your Mother! The day we met we became friends and continued our friendship for these many years. I will miss her greatly and especially on weekends. We called each other regularly until just recently when it became an effort for her to visit.

Betty helped many students who were just beginning their educational adventure, including me. These individuals have become outstanding citizens in our society and for this you must be proud!

Betty was a very gracious lady and I learned much from her. I have shed many tears for I have lost a good friend but will draw upon the memories we have created.

Prayers and good health for all!

Sincerely,  
Marlene Donovan

**Marlene Donovan** - June 17, 2020 at 10:50 AM

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“ To the family of Betty Pothast,  
Betty was my teacher when I was getting my G.E.D. She always encouraged me. Over 40 years later, it was a blessing to connect with her. She informed me how proud she was of me. That really touched me cause not everyone expresses that. What a delightful, classy lady!  
May God wrap His arms of comfort around you.  
Vicky Treimer

**Vicky Treimer** - June 14, 2020 at 12:03 PM

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“ To the family of Betty Pothast,

My condolences to all of you on the loss of Betty. Although I did not get a chance to talk to Betty in recent years, I appreciate every conversation I ever had with her. I remember the day at the Lost Island lake about 12 years ago when Kent and Peri were in town and so many of you were present.

May God grant peace to all of you at this time of loss.

Dennis Bielfeldt

Dennis Bielfeldt - June 12, 2020 at 08:11 PM

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“ Ann and Family,  
My deepest sympathy to you all. Betty meant a great deal to me and my family. Always encouraging, fearlessly lifting up those around her to achieve higher success. Her dedication to education still inspires me today. May your memories bring you comfort.  
--Brenda Boyer--

Brenda Tiesworth - June 12, 2020 at 10:44 AM



“ We appreciate your kindness.

Ann - June 15, 2020 at 07:52 PM

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“ To the Pothast Family,  
So sorry to hear of Betty's passing, she was a fantastic lady who headed up a fantastic family, and was a great inspiration and second mother to me for many years. My thoughts and prayers are with you always.  
Paul Brockmeyer

Paul Brockmeyer - June 11, 2020 at 05:46 PM

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“ Jean, Grant, Ann and family,  
So sorry to hear about the passing of Betty. My thoughts and prayers with you. I will always remember the times I and my family spent with Betty. Every time we came home to visit Dad, we got a chance to see Betty. She was always happy to see us and we spent some wonderful dinners with her.

Her passing brings back memories of our families getting together every New Year's Eve. Those were good times.

My condolences to all.

Jim Carlson

**Jim Carlson** - June 11, 2020 at 03:00 PM

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“ Hello Pothast family

Our thoughts and prayers are with you at the passing of your mother. She was very passionate about her family and Spencer.

I served as the Vocational Agriculture Instructor in Spencer 1963-1965. I spent many hours at the Pothast Farm. We truly enjoyed our interactions with both of your parents. We were new to Spencer and they invited us to a picnic--of course organized by Betty!...and the good times continued.

She was a great supporter of us and always communicated many times thru others. I did appreciate the notes that I received from her about awards that I had received..

Her memory will live on! Celebrate her life!

Larry and Barb Ebbers  
Ames, IA

**Larry Ebbers** - June 10, 2020 at 06:03 PM



“ Thank you for your special memory. We have so many great memories of being farm kids.

**Ann** - June 11, 2020 at 10:00 AM

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“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Betty Pothast.



June 10, 2020 at 04:49 PM

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“ Grant and Family,

Great lady - It was a pleasure to have known her. I remember her visiting Grant's/my bachelor pad back in Chicago in 1988 (shocking!) and intermittent visits with her in the years since. I had the pleasure of a long talk with her at Grant's/Kim's wedding and she was a proud mother of not only Grant, but Jean and Ann, as well as a proud grandmother. That's all you can ask. My condolences as you mourn and celebrate Betty. Dave Pattie

**Dave Pattie** - June 10, 2020 at 03:48 PM



“ Thank you for your condolences.

**Ann** - June 11, 2020 at 10:02 AM

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“ To Betty's family.....

We are so sorry to hear of Betty's passing. I knew Betty for many years working with her at the college, through First English Lutheran church and just being a special friend. Up until the last year, she never failed to call and wish me a Happy Birthday! Betty was always bright spirited and ready for a good laugh. Rest in peace, Betty! Thoughts, prayers and our sympathy to all of you!  
Tammy and Larry Rozeboom

**Tammy Rozeboom** - June 10, 2020 at 10:24 AM



“ Thank you for your kind words. She was a great lady.

**Ann** - June 10, 2020 at 01:13 PM

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“ Family of Betty Pothast

We are so sorry for your loss. We always enjoyed the spirited conversations whenever we talked to Betty. It is that independent spirit that made Betty the wonderful person she was and many people came to know.

Take care and God Bless!

Randy and Suzanne Krukow

Randy Krukow - June 10, 2020 at 09:28 AM



“ Our family appreciates your thoughts and prayers.

Ann - June 10, 2020 at 01:27 PM

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“ Betty was amazing and such a delight! I got to work 'near' her at Iowa Lakes Community College in Spencer. Betty always asked about my boys and myself. I was always ready for a piece of pie for Betty when she came to visit me at Julie's Diner at the Clay County Fair - Raisin Creme pie I believe :) I will miss Betty and may God Bless Betty.

Virginia Bubke - June 10, 2020 at 08:54 AM



“ Thank you so much. She enjoyed a good piece of pie until the very end!!

Ann - June 10, 2020 at 01:29 PM

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“ Betty was such an amazing woman. She was so full of spunk and I enjoyed our conversations. She truly cared for everyone she met. The newspaper clippings and the cards she would send reminded you that she enjoyed your achievements. Betty will be missed by many. Her heart was so full! God speed

Tracy (Clark) Enderson - June 09, 2020 at 08:46 PM



“ Thank you for your tribute. She was a spitfire keeping all of us on our toes.

Ann - June 10, 2020 at 01:16 PM

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“ Betty was such a good soul. Always had a good word or words of wisdom. She will truly be missed at FELC. She was part of the "back pew crew". Please accept my heartfelt condolences during this time of loss.

Rest in peace Betty.

Barb Raska

**Barb Raska** - June 09, 2020 at 06:54 PM



“ Thank you for your prayers, She loved her FELC friends. Our families long involvement with FELC was a source of pride for her.

**Ann** - June 10, 2020 at 01:18 PM

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“ To the family of Betty..Your mother was a good friend to my mother Rita McCarty while she was a resident at River view terrace in Spencer Iowa. Betty would come to Moms room and take her to the dining center as Mom had poor eyesight. Betty monitored how much Mom was eating and then letting us know. When our Mother passed Betty sent the nicest card with so many kind words and told us how much she respected her. Mom thought so highly of Betty as well.

Rest in peace Betty

Diane Full (McCarty)

**diane Full** - June 09, 2020 at 02:56 PM



“ Thank you for your condolences. We were blessed with a kind hearted mother and grandmother.

**Ann** - June 10, 2020 at 01:20 PM

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“ Our hearts are broken at the lost of such a great lady. We have a lot of wonderful memories of her, especially over the last ten years. We always enjoyed talking to her and having her come up to the cabin when we were there. She was such a good friend to Dad. We used to laugh--because very little happened in Clay County that the two of them did not know about!!! They were happy and enjoyed life. You can't do any better than that. Blessings--Renee Pierson

**renee pierson** - June 09, 2020 at 11:45 AM



“ Thanks you so much. She truly cared about you so much. Your Dad was such a joy to her. We too loved spending lake time or holidays with him.

**Ann** - June 10, 2020 at 01:23 PM



“ Betty was a great person. It was always great to see her at church and talk. She always sent paper clipping to our house with all the kids activities. She sent a flower to me when I had surgery a year ago. A truly great women and the world will miss her. Our thoughts and prayer are with you.

Troy, Cinda, Alex, Calvin, Allie Halverson

**Troy Halverson** - June 09, 2020 at 09:37 AM



“ Thanks so much. She loved following FELC members or 4Hers. She was a firm believer in encouraging and acknowledging others' accomplishments.

**Ann** - June 10, 2020 at 01:26 PM



“ Jean, Grant, Ann, and families, we are sorry for your loss. Betty was your champion, she also championed so many young people, always building others up. She brought joy to many people and will be missed.  
Bill and Colleen Gerdeman

**Bill Gerdeman** - June 08, 2020 at 05:37 PM



“ Thanks Bill, your families friendship was valued by Mom.

**Ann** - June 08, 2020 at 09:46 PM



“ Your thoughts mean so much. She thought so highly of your family.

**Jean Silverman** - June 09, 2020 at 11:33 AM



“ Betty was one of the First Ladies I met when we moved to Spencer and she was so kind to me. We had a lot in common. We both had connections to Atlantic, loved antiques, dishes and gardening. Betty was a great lady; intelligent, caring and a “doer”. My sincere sympathy to her family. May God wrap his arms around you and give you peace and comfort. Twila Henning

**Twila Henning** - June 08, 2020 at 01:28 PM



“ Your kind words are appreciated.

**Ann** - June 08, 2020 at 09:46 PM

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“ We met Betty when we transferred our membership to FELC. She always made it a point to visit with us after Bible class dismissed, between church services. We attended the 8am service, while Lowell would bring Betty for the 10:45 service, until we moved away to Cedar Rapids.. I had worked as a preschool aide with the FELC preschool program and knew how generous Betty was in her support of the children and their needs. She was such a delightful lady and had a true Christian heart. May God comfort your grieving hearts and may loving memories sustain you. Tom and Mary Galik

**Mary Galik** - June 08, 2020 at 12:44 PM



“ Thanks for reaching out. She had a passion for Christian education and loved the little ones.

**Ann** - June 08, 2020 at 09:48 PM

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“ I met your mother while working for Mike Bovee in Spencer years ago. She was such a sweet woman and I always enjoyed visiting with her! Deepest sympathy to the family.

Alice Frohling

Alice Frohling - June 08, 2020 at 09:31 AM



“ Thanks Alice for your kind words. Betty always spoke so highly of you.

Ann - June 08, 2020 at 09:49 PM



“ Betty was an inspiration to me and many. She was one who definitely “paid for the space she occupied” on earth. She will be missed... Bob and Lynn Swan

Lynn Swan - June 10, 2020 at 03:52 PM

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“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Ann Knobbe - June 08, 2020 at 08:54 AM

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“ I met Betty in August of 2019 at Friendship Haven. I was helping move my mom into the facility and Betty stopped by to welcome her. My kids came with me the next time I visited and my daughter was quickly drawn to Betty’s bright and kind spirit. She and Betty hit it off and Betty also commented how much she liked my son’s red hair, which he thought was pretty neat. Although we didn’t know her very long, she touched our lives. We visited a couple times and my kids would ask about her if they knew I had visited or talked to my mom. I am so sorry for your family’s loss. We enjoyed her very much.

Rachel, Emilie, & Jared McBurney

Rachel McBurney - June 07, 2020 at 12:14 PM



“ Thanks so much!

Ann - June 08, 2020 at 08:46 AM

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“ Jon And Linda Sorenson lit a candle in memory of Betty Pothast



Jon and Linda Sorenson - June 07, 2020 at 11:11 AM



“ Thank you so much. She was an amazing lady.

Ann - June 08, 2020 at 08:47 AM



“ Yes she was ! She always seemed upbeat and so interested in current events .

Jon and Linda Sorenson - June 08, 2020 at 01:29 PM

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“ Delightful Dieffenbachia was purchased for the family of Betty Pothast.



June 06, 2020 at 09:13 AM

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“ Ann, I posted on FB and now here sharing that met your mom when sister Alice was in Stone Heights. They shared meals at the same dining area. She was a sweetheart. My sister passed March 18. I am so sorry. Hard to lose Mom

Janice K - June 06, 2020 at 12:10 AM



“ I am sorry for your loss. These times made it hard to visit our loved ones at the end. Thank you for your kind words.

Ann - June 08, 2020 at 08:48 AM

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“ Hope the happy memories you had with your mom over her lifetime bring you comfort and peace. Our condolences to all of you.

**Shelli Rebman** - June 05, 2020 at 11:23 PM



“ Thank you for your kind words. She was a very special mom and grandma.

**Ann** - June 08, 2020 at 08:49 AM

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“ Loved this lady ~ what a class act she was! I really missed her when she moved to FD but knew she would be closer to family. She is truly now in her heavenly home! Rest in peace, dear Betty

**Kay Wilson** - June 05, 2020 at 09:11 PM



“ I was so pleased to get acquainted with Betty when she moved to Friendship Haven and found her to be a delightful lady. She was so interested in life and loved meeting new people. So sorry that you've lost your Mom Ann and that Thomas has lost his Grandma. I know she will be missed, but your memories are forever.

Marlene Osborne

**Marlene Osborne** - June 06, 2020 at 06:00 PM



“ Thank you so much. She loved the times that You came out and visited with your friends. It was very special to have her here with Thomas. Your kind words are appreciated.

**Ann** - June 08, 2020 at 08:51 AM



“ I remember your mom from when I entered baked goods at the Clay County Fair. Sympathy to you and your family. Carolyn Hartmann

**Carolyn Hartmann** - June 09, 2020 at 09:13 AM



“ We are so sorry for your loss. Betty was a special person with a delightful, caring personality. She was so very kind to my mother while she was ill. It was a joy to see her every time we went to First English to visit. Our deepest sympathy. Wade & Stephanie (Rossiter) Gebert

**Stephanie Gebert** - June 13, 2020 at 04:46 PM