



## Melba Lawrence

September 15, 1915 - June 1, 2014

Former Ankeny resident, Melba Lawrence passed away February 3, 2014 in Pharr, Texas. She was born in Polk County, Iowa on September 15, 1915. Melba graduated from Ankeny High School in 1933, and attended Ankeny Jr College. On December 15, 1935, Melba (Hildreth) married Ted Lawrence. They lived and raised their family in Ankeny, IA, where their three daughters graduated from Ankeny High School. Melba and Ted spent their summers with family and friends on Lake Washburn near Outing, MN. In 1966 they spent their first winter vacation in the Rio Grande Valley. In 2002, Mission TX became their full time home. In July 2012, Melba lost Ted, her husband of 76 years. Melba is survived by her three daughters: Theo Ann and husband Bill Michael of Mission TX; Ardyth and husband Steve Cornell of Bondurant, IA; and Jane and husband Ron Gaskill of Mission TX. She was preceded in death by her parents, 2 brothers, 2 sisters, a son-in-law and a granddaughter.

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

JUL 19. 10:00 AM (CT)

Lincoln Cemetery  
Alleman, IA

# Tribute Wall

WN

“ We remember Ted & Melba with many warm thoughts. Ted was always building something out of nothing. Using old straightened nails and when he was done it looked great. Melba was a very kind heart. I remember thinking when she was old, probably about 50, (not so old after all) how good she looked in her bathing suit and hoping I'd look that good. Lots of good talks and friendly smiles every year. They will always be a sweet memory for us. Good people! Ron & Willa Nichols

---


**willa Nichols** - July 15, 2014 at 06:51 PM

JE

“ We always loved visiting with Ted and Melba. Wonderful stories. They will be remembered as a wonderful couple.  
Denny and Jackie eastridge

---

**jackie eastridge** - July 15, 2014 at 06:14 PM

 Susan  
Henken-  
Thielen

“ We were fortunate to have Ted and Melba as our cabin neighbors when we purchased our cabin in 1987. Ted was always so helpful as we learned about the responsibilities and pitfalls of cabin ownership; willing to lend advice and a hand on many projects. One particular memory I have is when a particularly violent storm suddenly came up and I ran outside to take in my hammock. It always involved a bit of maneuvering to attach and detach the hooks and I was struggling in the wind. Suddenly I heard a cabin door slam and saw Ted running in the rain and wind to my side to help me remove the hammock. I remember feeling so amazed and grateful that he would see a neighbor in need and not think twice about facing the storm to help her. My memories of Melba are not specific to one occasion. She was such a kind and sweet person to be around, always stopping by to chat, share news and update us on Iowa Camp occurrences. She was truly beautiful inside and out. Your parents were truly special people. We offer our deepest condolences to all of you as you mourn the loss of your parents.  
*The Henken-Thielen family*

---

**Susan Henken-Thielen** - July 14, 2014 at 05:01 PM