

Jean Dowd, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and coach, unexpectedly passed away on Saturday, May 16, 2026, at MercyOne Medical Center in Des Moines, Iowa.

Jean was born on June 27, 1959, in Jefferson, Iowa, to Alys and Norman Crabb. She was also lovingly raised by her stepfather, Lebren Fox, following her mother's remarriage.

On September 16, 1977, Jean was united in marriage to Jim Dowd at the Jamaica Union Church in Jamaica, Iowa. Together they built a life centered around family, community, and a deep love of swimming.

Jean dedicated 29 years of service to the McCreary Community Center in Perry. She also spent 27 years coaching the Perry High School Girls Swim Team, a role that brought out the very best in her. Under her leadership, the Jayettes thrived, and Jean was named the 2017/2018 Female Coach of the Year by the Perry Chief. She also earned the IGHSAU Golden Plaque of Distinction, becoming only the 9th swimming-related recipient of that honor, as well as the NFHS Iowa Girls Swimming/Diving Coach of the Year award in 2021.

Jean had a gift for mentorship and poured herself into the lives of countless young swimmers over the years. She loved supporting the broader swimming community in every way she could, cheering on her children and grandchildren in all their activities, and relaxing and reading in the gazebo. Yet by her own account, her favorite job was simply being a Mom and Grandmother.

Jean's generosity continued even after her passing through the Iowa Donor Network. By choosing to be a donor, she gave one final gift to help others in need. It was a true reflection of the compassionate, selfless, and caring person Jean was throughout her life.

She is survived by her husband, Jim Dowd; her son, Eric(Allison Turner) Dowd of Perry; her daughter, Christina (Levi) Sowers of Iowa City; her siblings, Carol Tilton of Cedar Rapids and Harvey Crabb of Ames, Iowa; her grandchildren, Andrew Dowd, Emily Dowd, and Zoe Sowers; her niece, Andrea (Dave) Elkin; and her nephew, Dennis Crabb. She is also survived by Jessica (Dustin) Goehring, who Jean loved and cared for as her own daughter, and their children, Carver, Keegan, and Cole, whom Jean cherished as grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Alys Fox; her stepfather, Lebren Fox; and her biological father, Norman Crabb.

Jean's warmth, dedication, and love will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Celebrating THE LIFE OF **Jean Dowd** June 27, 1959 - May 16, 2026

Visitation

Friday, May 22, 2026

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

McCreary Community Building - Perry

Memorial Service

2:00 p.m., Friday, May 22, 2026

McCreary Community Building - Perry

Officiating Clergy

Pastor Andrea Brownlee

Perry First Christian Church

Recorded Musical Selections

"These Eyes" - The Guess Who

"Amazing Grace" - Elvis Presley

"Stand By Me" - Dave Fenley

Honorary Pallbearers

Andrew Dowd - Emily Dowd - Zoe Sowers

Carver Goehring - Keegan Goehring - Cole Goehring

Private Family Burial

Richland Cemetery - Bagley, IA

In lieu of flowers, a fund will be established at a later time to help support the Perry community, which was very important to Jean.