JOHNSON CITY, TN - Donna Benda (Lepley) of Johnson City, TN, formerly of Brooklyn, IA, died on September 3, 2018 at the Waters Care Facility of Johnson City after a lengthy illness.

Donna was born on June 23, 1931. She was the daughter of Willet and Lola Lepley of Marshalltown, IA. She graduated from Albion High School. On November 23rd, 1953 she was united in marriage to Lester J. Benda at the Albion Presbyterian Church. They made their home near Chelsea where they lived many years on their farm. They had three children, Elaine, Allan and Mary. In the later years they moved to Ladora and then Brooklyn.

Donna worked outside the home at various restaurants around Brooklyn and was known for her good cooking and baking. Donna loved to cook and try out new recipes. She also liked to sew and crochet.

She also enjoyed her family and loved to make Cabbage Patch Dolls and clowns for the grandchildren, as there wasn’t much she couldn’t make. She also loved to have flower gardens and house plants. When they moved to Ladora, she got a job at the University of Iowa Hospital in the sterilizing department where she worked until retirement.

Donna moved to Johnson City in 2011, where she lived in an independent living complex where she enjoyed being around people and playing games and puzzles. She was still quite the dancer at various parties there. In January of 2017 she moved to Dominion Assisted living in town.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Lester and a brother in law Paul Forbes. Donna is survived by three children Elaine (Daniel) Wilcox of Johnson City, TN, Allan (Sharon) Benda of McComb, OH and Mary (Dennis) Flanders of Montezuma, IA. Also grandchildren Melissa (Jeff) Grimm of Johnston, IA, Jeff Benda of Portland, OR, Angie Flanders and Travis Flanders of Montezuma, IA and Mike (Mary Beth) Wilcox of Kempten, Germany. Her great grandchildren Zackary and Aubrey Grimm and a sister Beverly Forbes of St. Cloud, FL. Also a number of nieces and nephews.

There will be a memorial service at a later date in early 2019 and will be interned at Rector Cemetery at Chelsea, IA.