

## Dena Carter, 16

*June 3, 1987 - Oct. 27, 2003*

**IRWIN** – Dena Ann Carter, daughter of Michel Charles and Carol Ann (Schaben) Carter, was born June 3, 1987, in Harlan. She was baptized at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance, and was confirmed at St. Mary Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Portsmouth. Dena attended grade school in Irwin and was currently a sophomore at the Irwin-Kirkman-Manilla High School in Manilla.

Dena was very active in school and was awarded the Irwin-Kirkman-Manilla Presidential Academic Achievement Award and participated in volleyball, track, softball, as well as the Catholic Youth Organization. Dena shared in a wide variety of interests that included, but definitely was not limited to: gymnastics, water sports, music, playing piano, stock car and four wheeler races, playing on the computer and most importantly, spending time with her friends and family. Her most memorable quality was her shining smile. Dena died Oct. 27, 2003, near Denison, as a result of an automobile accident, at age 16 years, four months and 24 days.

She was preceded in death by her maternal grandfather, Jack Schaban, who died Sept. 10, 1978. Dena is survived by her parents, Michel and Carol Carter of Irwin; her sister, Leah Carter of Cedar Falls; her brother, Ryan Carter of Irwin; her maternal grandparents, Arthur and Marlene Klingenberg of Cedar Falls; her paternal grandparents, Virgil and Ruby Carter of Irwin; her maternal great grandmother, Myrtle Gearhart of Harlan; aunts, uncles and cousins.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Oct. 30, 2003, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling, with Rev. Michael Berner officiating. Honorary casket bearers were Brett Greer, Samantha Bomstad, Kathryn Pennell, Kayla Gaskill, Eric Fera, Kami Rasmussen, Angela Schmitz, Jamie Backhaus, Margo Muhlbauer and Megan Muhlbauer. Casket bearers were Rodney Schaben, Brian Schaben, Roger Schaben, William Carter, David Schaben and Dean Schaben. Burial was in Oak Hill Cemetery in Irwin. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

