



William Schmidt

September 24, 1930 - April 15, 2020

William Schmidt, 89, of Iowa Falls, passed away Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at Hansen Family Hospital. Private family funeral services will be held on Friday, April 17, 2020 at the Woodley Funeral Home with Rev. Paul L. Beisel officiating. He will be laid to rest at the Union Cemetery. Woodley Funeral Home, LLC of Iowa Falls is caring for Bill and his family.

William "Bill" Harvey Schmidt was born on September 24, 1930 in Schuyler, Nebraska to Harvey and Arlene (Guidinger) Schmidt. Bill grew up on a Platte River Valley farm in Nebraska, the oldest of five siblings. He graduated from high school at the age of 16. A Regents scholarship enabled him to enroll at Midland College in Fremont, Nebraska rather than becoming a teacher at a nearby country school. His college career was interrupted by the Korean War where he served four years in the Air Force. Upon his return, he completed his bachelor's degree, and taught high school at Valley Nebraska for one year before moving to Iowa State University to pursue a master's degree. While at ISU, he met and married Nadine Joan Munsterman on December 21, 1957 at Memorial Lutheran Church in Ames, Iowa. He began his college teaching career at Ellsworth Community College in 1959, teaching biological sciences. In 1981 Bill became deeply involved with what would become the Calkins Nature Area. He started Ellsworth College's Conservation Technology Program in 1983 which became one of the college's strong degree programs. In 1996, the dream of an Interpretive Center/Natural History Museum building

at Calkins was accomplished. Bill was active in the community and the surrounding area serving on the Iowa Falls Park Board, Hardin County Conservation Board and various other Iowa River Greenbelt development and preservation efforts. Bill was honored for his accomplishments and educational legacy when he received an honorary Doctorate of Science degree at the 2013 ECC commencement ceremony. Throughout his career, Bill was regarded not only as a teacher but as a mentor, colleague and friend. Bill retired from ECC in 1992.

Bill and Nadine were parents to five children: Kimberly, twins Jeffrey and Jennifer (deceased), Melanie, and Lisa. Bill and Nadine raised their family in Iowa Falls and have been blessed with close friends that have turned into family over the years. He was an active church member at Immanuel Lutheran Church and held many offices. He was also active in his community and was recognized for outstanding volunteer efforts with a Community Service Award in 1995. Bill shared his love of nature with his family through gardening, fishing, canoeing, and exploring the joys of identifying animals, insects, and plants. In their later years, he and Nadine enjoyed trips visiting their children and grandchildren. They have been active in disability issues with son Jeff, ranging from using the Human Services program at Ellsworth to serving as a director and Board Chairman at One Vision (formerly Opportunity Village) in Clear Lake.

Bill is survived by his wife, Nadine; children: Kim Carter, Jeffrey Schmidt, Melanie (Tad) Kochel and Lisa (Osmin) Gonzalez; grandchildren: Jordan Kochel, Aaron and Hannah Carter and Evan Gonzalez. He is also survived by siblings: Don (Peg) Schmidt, Bob (Charlotte) Schmidt, John (Carma) Schmidt and Elva Jean (Cheryl) Schmidt along with numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and daughter, Jennifer.

Memorial contributions may be made to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Iowa

Falls or the Calkins Nature Area.

Tribute Wall

KH

“ My condolences to the Schmidt family. I inherited a painting with the name William H Schmidt of Cherokee Iowa on the back. Although my aunt tells me that it was painted by Cora triggs Hiscox, the sister of Arthur Hiscox my great-grandfather. Since the obituary does not mention Mr Schmitz interest in art there may be no connection at all. But out of curiosity I am reaching out to show you this picture



Kim Hiscox - December 15, 2025 at 09:15 AM

JP

“ I was one of Bill's first students in 1959 at EJC and loved to attend his classes since I shared his passion of the outdoors. So glad to know him and we will miss him. Jerry Price and family.

Jerry Price - April 21, 2020 at 04:02 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of William Schmidt.



April 20, 2020 at 06:52 PM

PR

“Bill has left a special imprint in many lives and most definitely in mine. Having known him my entire life. Our families were as one. I have so many wonderful memories of Bill and life growing up with him in my life, those memories will always be close to my heart. Brian, Brody and I send our deepest condolences, love and prayers to the entire Schmidt family.

“The important people in our lives leave imprints. They may stay or go in the physical realm, but they are always there in your heart, because they helped form your heart. There's not getting over that.”
– David Levithan, author

Patti Roettger - April 17, 2020 at 09:28 PM



“Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of William Schmidt.



April 17, 2020 at 12:21 AM

MG

“Mr. Schmidt is someone you never forget. Always a smile to share and science to talk about. I remember about 20 years ago he bought Jordan and my daughter, Malia, American Indian bands and instruments. The kids really took it serious and planned a dance for Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt. Matter of fact it was a rain dance. If I'm not mistaken (Mel) I think it did end up raining!! Mr. Schmidt will be missed by many. I send deep condolences to the family. Let light Perpetual Shine Upon Him.

Mary Lynn Guidage - April 16, 2020 at 10:44 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of William Schmidt.*



April 16, 2020 at 09:44 PM



“ *Rita Wodtke and family. Allen and Barb Munsterman purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of William Schmidt.*



Rita Wodtke and family. Allen and Barb Munsterman - April 16, 2020 at 06:04 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of William Schmidt.*



April 16, 2020 at 03:00 PM



“ *Bill was a wonderful person and he will be missed. His dedication to conservation was outstanding. My husband served on the Conservation Board with him and respected his opinion. My sympathy to the entire family. Loretta Rieks*

Loretta Rieks - April 16, 2020 at 11:37 AM

JU

“ *Time spent with Bill was time well spent. So glad I got to know such a wonderful man. Jeff Ulch*

JEFFREY L ULCH - April 16, 2020 at 12:40 AM

LW

“ *Bill was an outstanding Professor @ ECC and a great father. I was fortunate to spend lots of time with his daughter Lisa during high school and college. A patient, kind and always happy guy! Randy and I send our deepest sympathy to the entire family.*

Lorrie Watts - April 15, 2020 at 09:56 PM

ER

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Eldon Rahmiller - April 15, 2020 at 08:34 PM

ER

Bill Schmidt attended most of the Prof Jones Christmas Dinners. Unlike the rest of us, he knew Prof Jones. He was a kind and gentle man of great integrity and an influential teacher. His influence was felt at the beginning and development of the Calkins Nature Area. The climate and environment has no greater friend than Bill.

Eldon Rahmiller - April 15, 2020 at 08:40 PM

ER

Bill and Nadine at the Christmas Dinner.

Eldon Rahmiller - April 15, 2020 at 08:48 PM

KR

Sending my very belated but sincere sympathy to the Schmidt family. Mr. Schmidt was my biology professor at ECC in 1981. He was a very nice man and you all are wonderful family that made me feel welcome in your home. I very much enjoyed helping Jeff through ECC's human services program. God's blessings and peace to each of you.

Kelsey Hartkemeyer Ritscher - February 12, 2021 at 10:53 PM

DS

“ RIP dear dear neighbor. How very much you and all the family enriched our lives. Sincere sympathy from Bob & I and the boys also...You're all very special people Loves...Diann .

Diann Shaner - April 15, 2020 at 04:12 PM

WW

*“ I am very sorry to hear of Bill's passing, Calkin Nature Area would not be what it is today without Bill. He was a great mentor, advisor and friend and I am going to miss him!
Wes Wiese*

Wes Wiese - April 15, 2020 at 10:29 AM