



## Donald Lawrence Schmitt

February 19, 1934 - March 25, 2026

Donald L. Schmitt, 92, of Storm Lake, Iowa passed away on March 25, 2026, surrounded by his loving family.

Funeral Mass will take place Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Storm Lake. Burial will be in the St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery. Visitation will be held Tuesday, March 31, 2026 from 5-7:00 p.m. with a 7:00 p.m. vigil followed by a KC Rosary at Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in STORM LAKE. In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred to the family. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Don was born February 10, 1934, at Porath Hospital in Storm Lake, Iowa, to Frank and Blanche (Cockburn) Schmitt of Alta, Iowa. He attended Maple Valley School from 1st through 6th grade and St. Mary's in Storm Lake from 7th to 12th grade.

Don entered the US Army in 1955 and discharged in December 1956. He served at a missile site that protected Chicago. He also graduated from Powerman School in Augusta, Georgia.

Don married the love of his life on October 15, 1955, at St Mary's Catholic Church in Storm Lake. They enjoyed 70 plus years of marriage and were

blessed with 5 children.

Don worked for DeKalb his entire career. He started in Storm Lake, became inspector at the Shenandoah DeKalb plant, Superintendent at Monmouth, Illinois, and Plant Manager at the Warren, Illinois, Oelwein, Iowa, and Boone, Iowa plants. After retirement, he spent several years traveling to Puerto Rico, Maui, and Kauai, as a consultant for DeKalb.

Don was an active member of the Knights of Columbus, serving as Columbus Club President and helping for many years with the fish fries and the funnel cake stand. He, along with Don Reiling, were known as the Don's. They made many of the props for the St. Mary's Ball and the school plays. They also did a lot of repair work for the school and church.

A highlight of Don's later years was the opportunity to travel on an Honor Flight to Washington DC and being surprised to be greeted by his grandson Josh at the airport in DC and his two sons and wives at the monuments on the national mall.

Don was a very talented woodworker and also was gifted at restoring old tractors. He loved fishing with many trips to Minnesota and Canada over the years. He also loved spending time with the grandchildren and great grandchildren.

After retirement, his love for the farm, was fulfilled by working for the Foell Farms, helping with spring and fall seasonal work. Don was an avid reader of the Iowa magazine and World War II books.

Survived by his wife of 70 years, Betty; children, Carolyn, Steve (Sharon), Lynne Thompson (Jim), Gary (Lisa), and Joni Gosch (Brian); grandchildren, Jeremy (Tanya) Summerlin, Travis (Victoria) Schmitt, Joshua (Briene) Schmitt,

Dr. Cory (Teresa) Schmitt, Scott (Michelle) Thompson, Christopher (Briana) Gosch, grandson in law, Bill Sekulovich; great grandchildren, Tucker and Ava Summerlin, Korra Schmitt, Eddie, Charlotte, and William Schmitt, Cole and Eli Thompson, Will, Sloane, and Beau Sekulovich, and one Baby Schmitt due in May.

Also survived by sisters Veronica Lutter and Dorothy Waldo; brother-in-law David Breon; sisters-in-law Nancy Overmohle and Eileen Overmohle.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Blanche Schmitt; parents-in-law: Tony and Laretta Overmohle; grandchildren, Dr. Nicole Summerlin, Dr. Kelli Sekulovich, Elizabeth and Nicholas Gosch: granddaughter-in-law: DeAnn Schmitt.

Also preceded by brothers Richard Schmitt, Charles (Ed) Schmitt, Joseph Schmitt, and Jim Schmitt; sister Mary Norris; brothers-in-law Fran Waldo, Merritt Lutter, Leo Overmohle, Donald Overmohle, Luvern Overmohle, Francis Koch, Norm Kestel, Fred Jansen; sisters-in-law, Kay Schmitt, Phyllis Schmitt, Rita Jansen, Rosemary Overmohle, Mary Breon, Lois Kestel, and Rosie Koch.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery

1238 600th St.  
Storm Lake, IA 50588

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 31. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - Storm Lake  
1615 W Milwaukee Ave,  
Storm Lake, IA 50588  
(712) 732-1911  
jensenfuneralhomes@gmail.com  
<https://www.fratzkejensen.com>

## Vigil Service

MAR 31. 7:00 PM (CT)

Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - Storm Lake  
1615 W Milwaukee Ave,  
Storm Lake, IA 50588  
(712) 732-1911  
jensenfuneralhomes@gmail.com  
<https://www.fratzkejensen.com>

*KC Rosary to follow.*

## Funeral Mass

APR 1. 10:30 AM (CT)

St Mary's Parish  
300 E 3rd St  
Storm Lake, IA 50588-2554  
(712) 732-3110

## Burial

APR 1 (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery  
1238 600th St.  
Storm Lake, IA 50588

# Tribute Wall

KS

“ Don was a super person and the best boss I had at Dekalb, Oelwein. K. Schwartz

Kay Schwartz - March 31 at 12:16 PM

F-

“ From the Mary Norris family - purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Donald Lawrence Schmitt.



From the Mary Norris family - - March 30 at 11:08 PM

F-

“ From the Mary Norris family - planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Lawrence Schmitt.

From the Mary Norris family - - March 30 at 11:08 PM

MS

“ I am so sorry to learn of Don's passing. I thoroughly enjoyed being his doctor for so many years. He was such a pleasure to see as a patient. I felt we became good friends, and always looked forward to seeing him. I learned a great deal from him, and admired his strength and fortitude when life threw him some curve balls. I enjoyed teasing him about his days in Hawaii and scolded him for taking a pay check when he was there all winter. He loved his family, and the devotion Betty showed to him during some tough times always touched my heart. I send prayers for comfort to your entire family. Peace, Dr. Mark Schultz

Mark Schultz - March 30 at 04:33 PM

FH

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - March 30 at 04:26 PM



“ 167 files added to the album Life Tributes



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - March 30 at 04:06 PM

RG

“ Randy & Gayle Gosch purchased the *Treasured Memory* - 8" x 7" Frame (Holds 4x6 Photo) for the family of Donald Lawrence Schmitt.



Randy & Gayle Gosch - March 30 at 02:58 PM

RG

“ Randy & Gayle Gosch planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Lawrence Schmitt.

Randy & Gayle Gosch - March 30 at 02:58 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald Lawrence Schmitt.



March 30 at 11:12 AM

OM

“ Oak Street Mfg purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Donald Lawrence Schmitt.



Oak Street Mfg - March 30 at 10:22 AM

OM

“ Oak Street Mfg planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Lawrence Schmitt.

Oak Street Mfg - March 30 at 10:22 AM

FH

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - March 29 at 01:19 PM

TC

“ No more pain... no more struggles.... no more heartache.....eternal peace ✨

tim/peg cavanaugh - March 29 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ Our condolences to the Schmitt family on their loss. Don was visible at most every St. Mary's event-whether it be school or church. He will be missed by all who knew him. Our prayers are with you.  
Kevin & Julie McKinney



McKinney - March 27 at 05:00 PM

PF

“ Peg Flynn lit a candle in memory of Donald Schmitt



Peg Flynn - March 27 at 01:32 PM

BB

“ *Bob Baschke lit a candle in memory of Donald Schmitt*



Bob Baschke - March 27 at 10:49 AM

RP

*So very sorry to hear of Don's passing! He was a wonderful person! You all our in our prayers! Mike and Roxi Pertzborn*

ROXANNA PERTZBORN - March 29 at 10:05 AM

JD

“ *John/Connie Demers lit a candle in memory of Donald Schmitt*



John/Connie Demers - March 26 at 05:00 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donald Lawrence Schmitt.*

March 26 at 04:56 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Donald Lawrence Schmitt.*



March 26 at 04:56 PM

DM

“ *Dave & Deb Merten lit a candle in memory of Donald Schmitt* ”



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**Dave & Deb Merten** - March 26 at 02:10 PM