



## Michael Otis Denney

August 1, 1954 - December 28, 2022

Michael Otis Denney, age 68, of Schaller, Iowa died peacefully December 28, 2022 at the Buena Vista Regional Medical Center in Storm Lake, Iowa.

Funeral services will take place Thursday, January 5, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Schaller. Burial will be in the Schaller Cemetery. Visitation will take place Wednesday, January 4, 2023 from 4-7:00 p.m. at the St. Paul Lutheran Church in Schaller. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Schaller is in charge of arrangements.

Michael Otis Denney was born August 1, 1954 to Otis and Shirley (Sisson) Denney in Onawa, Iowa. He was baptized as an infant at the First Congregational Church in Blencoe, Iowa. Growing up, Michael attended grade school in Castana, Iowa and graduated high school in 1972 at Maple Valley High School. After high school, he started farming and worked at Wilson Trailer in Onawa, Iowa. Michael then attended college at Western Iowa Tech Community College and received a degree in electrical wiring. After completing the electrician courses, he was awarded an electrician sub-station job and was soon promoted to the Overhead Electrical Department with Iowa Public Service in Storm Lake, Iowa.

Michael was united in marriage to Judy Bumsted on November 22, 1975 at the St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Mapleton, Iowa. In November 1981, the

big day came where Michael was awarded a Local Serviceman job with I.P.S. in Schaller, Iowa. Michael and Judy moved from Storm Lake to Schaller on November 17, 1981. On July 28, 1982, the couple were blessed with a son, Eric.

Michael was the visionary founder of 4-Wheel Drive Unlimited which sold parts and accessories for all types of vehicles. Michael was known as a reliable advocate in the community. He joined the Schaller Fire Department in January 1983 and remained an active lifelong member. He was involved in many advancements with their rescue equipment. Michael assisted the ambulance squad with the organization of the first rescue squad in Schaller. He was influential in the first FM band radio and pager system communications for both organizations. He served as president and vice-president of the Schaller Chamber of Commerce and Schaller Park Board, as well as spearheading the Trees for Tomorrow Campaign and serving as the Treasurer for St. Paul Lutheran Church for many years. Michael was also an important part of the American Red Cross and he was a valued CPR instructor for many years. In his free time, Michael enjoyed pheasant hunting and deer hunting with his son, family, and friends. In the summer, you could find him on the lake water skiing and boating with his family. He loved fast cars and big engines and could be found watching stock car races and NHRA. He was proud of his cherished 1976 Mercury Cougar. Michael savored spending time with his family and friends.

Left to cherish Michael's memory are his wife, Judy of Schaller, Iowa; son: Eric (Jennifer) Denney of St. Joseph, Missouri; grandchildren: Jacob; Kaylee; and Markus; parents: Otis and Shirley Denney of Onawa, Iowa; brother: Doug (Patty) Denney of Oak Ridge, Tennessee; extended family and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents: Floyd and Ida Denney; Clinton and Ruby Sisson; parents-in-law: Lloyd and Helena Bumsted.



# Cemetery Details

## Schaller Cemetery -- Schaller

200th Street  
Schaller, IA 51053

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 4. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Paul Lutheran Church -- Schaller  
402 E Third  
Schaller, IA 51053

## Funeral Service

JAN 5. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Paul Lutheran Church -- Schaller  
402 E Third  
Schaller, IA 51053

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Michael Otis Denney*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - January 03, 2023 at 11:27 AM

JB

*Beautiful Tribute* 🙏❤️🙏

Jay and Julie Barlow - January 03, 2023 at 11:56 PM

NM

*So sorry to hear this. Mike was so friendly when he would be at the fleet center in Sioux City.*

Nancy Muecke - January 04, 2023 at 11:46 AM

SH

“ *Judy and Family,*

*Michael held a special place in your hearts and our hearts and lives. We have been blessed and thanking God for Michael and the memories as our families grew up together. May all your memories bring you peace and knowing love endures forever. He will be missed by all who knew his smile and kindness. Our Love, thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.  
Aunt Sharon and C.J.  
Lynn and Charlie*



Sharon L Harris - January 05, 2023 at 12:06 AM

ME

“ Mike and LaDonna (Anderson) Eriksen purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Michael Otis Denney.



Mike and LaDonna (Anderson) Eriksen - January 04, 2023 at 02:59 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Michael Otis Denney.



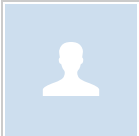
January 04, 2023 at 12:58 PM

FH

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - January 04, 2023 at 11:11 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Michael Otis Denney.



January 04, 2023 at 11:01 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Michael Otis Denney.*



January 04, 2023 at 07:45 AM



“ *Judy & family so sorry to hear of Mike's passing. I enjoyed his holler or honk's an waves when he was leaving Midamerican daily. We will both miss our chats with him. We will hold you in our thoughts an prayers*

**Angela K Mumm** - January 03, 2023 at 09:25 PM



“ *Delightful Dieffenbachia was purchased for the family of Michael Otis Denney.*



January 03, 2023 at 04:18 PM



“ *Stephen Ethen and Michael Bagley. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Michael Otis Denney.*



**Stephen Ethen and Michael Bagley.** - January 03, 2023 at 10:01 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Michael Otis Denney.*



---

January 03, 2023 at 08:31 AM



“ *Michael will be so missed by family. He always wore a smile and greeted you with kind and welcoming words. He was fun to visit with and so intelligent about almost any subject. I know all of us from Minnesota are sending out prayers for the whole family. God sure takes the Best. We hold all of you in thoughts and prayers.*

---

**Peggy Benn** - January 03, 2023 at 08:12 AM



“ *Uncle Mike always made our summer trips out west so much fun, from tubing on storm lake to riding the go-kart.. I'm glad we got to see him a few years ago on our trip back. I will always remember his voice and his welcoming personality.He will be very missed.*

---

**Jackie Sharpton** - January 02, 2023 at 05:43 PM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Michael Otis Denney.*



---

January 02, 2023 at 03:16 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael Otis Denney.



January 02, 2023 at 02:25 PM



“ Karolen Kroch purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Michael Otis Denney.



**Karolen Kroch** - January 02, 2023 at 11:55 AM



“ Our prayers to Judy and Eric and the entire family. I so enjoyed our visits with Mike when we would have him install a number of roll top truck covers. He was always so welcoming showing us his shop, treasured vehicles and accessories. We kidded him that one could eat off of his shop floor it was that clean. He would just grin when we tried to decide if it were better to drive a Ford or Chevy pickup. Mike was the embodiment of a businessman who not only provided service but friendship. God's Peace in the days ahead.

**Randy & Marilyn Schmitt, Fonda** - January 02, 2023 at 11:08 AM



Deepest sympathy Judy and Eric and family will try too come but weather might not let me but will be thinking of you.GOD BLESS AND PRAYERS.

**Louella Collins** - January 02, 2023 at 02:27 PM

SF

“ Steinhouse Family purchased the Lovely One Sp  
athiphyllum Plant for the family of Michael Otis  
Denney.



---

**Steinhouse Family** - January 01, 2023 at 03:36 PM



“ White Calla Lily and Daisies with Red Roses (Silk  
Cemetery Flowers) was purchased for the family  
of Michael Otis Denney.



---

December 31, 2022 at 09:35 PM

LE

“ After 50 years of no contact with Mike I was blessed to connect with  
him again at our class reunion this past summer. I am so happy that  
I had that opportunity to see the great person he had grown to be.  
My husband (Mike) and Mike became instant friends when they met  
at the reunion.  
Mike will definitely be missed by all.  
LaDonna Anderson Eriken

---

**LaDonna Eriksen** - December 31, 2022 at 11:38 AM

ME

“ Mike LaDonna Eriksen lit a candle in memory  
of Michael Denney



---

**Mike and LaDonna Eriksen** - December 31, 2022 at 11:31 AM

JB

“ Mike was a long time friend of our family for nearly 40 years. A fun and generous person to be around, kind to all he knew. Devoted husband, father, grandfather and friend. Loved God, a good steak and Tommy James and the Shondells.



Jay and Julie Barlow - December 30, 2022 at 11:37 PM

RP

“ Renae & Craig Pyle lit a candle in memory of Michael Denney



Renae Tokheim & Craig Pyle - December 30, 2022 at 05:03 PM

JW

“ joan whitney lit a candle in memory of Michael Denney



joan whitney - December 30, 2022 at 02:34 PM

VU

“ Vicki Ulven lit a candle in memory of Michael Denney



Vicki Ulven - December 30, 2022 at 11:45 AM

TF

“ Mike was a great community man. From helping take care of the Fire Department cans to helping people. A couple years ago Bob Hants was at the old house putting up a ceiling fan. He went out to get parts and came back in with an advisor, Mike helped with the electric. I'll miss seeing him walking around downtown. So so sorry for you all.

---

**Tina Frank** - December 29, 2022 at 04:33 PM

BT

“ Bill Danis Thompson lit a candle in memory of Michael Denney



---

**Bill & Danis Thompson** - December 29, 2022 at 04:16 PM