



## Steven M. Schaefer

November 7, 1942 - March 25, 2025

Steven M. Schaefer, age 82, of Schaller, Iowa died March 25, 2025 at Methodist Manor Retirement Community in Storm Lake.

Memorial services will take place Saturday, April 26, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Schaller followed by Inurnment in the Schaller Cemetery. Visitation will take place Friday, April 25, 2025 from 5-7:00 p.m. at the Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in SCHALLER. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Schaller is in charge of the arrangements.

Steven Mason Schaefer was born at Porath Hospital in Storm Lake, Iowa on November 7, 1942 to Edwin Mason and Donna Louise (Reinhart) Schaefer. Steven, along with his sister Catherine, lived in a small one-bedroom cottage built immediately south of the original farm home built by William and Louisa Schaefer in 1875. Steven's grandparents, Edwin and Laura (Junkermeier) Schaefer resided in the original farm home until 1951 when they moved to a home in Schaller. After his grandparents relocated to Schaller, Steven and family moved into the farm home "next door." In 1978 Steven's parents, Mason and Donna, also moved to Schaller, and Steven and family continued the family tradition and moved into the farm home. Portions of the original farm home structure remain to this day on the Schaefer Heritage Farm. Steven was very proud of his family's 150-year occupancy of the farm and home.

Steven was baptized, attended Sunday School, and confirmed at the First Presbyterian Church in Schaller and remained a lifelong member of the church. Steven was a member of the Eden Hotshots 4-H Club, showed a Grand Champion Guernsey Dairy heifer, and later a Champion Angus steer. Steven graduated from Schaller Community High School in 1961, later purchasing a 1963 red Chevy Impala two-door hardtop.

After graduation Steven continued to farm alongside his father Mason, and he became the 4th generation of the Schaefer family to work the family farm. Farming was not only a family tradition, but it was his passion and life's work. Steven's hard work resulted in High Yield Crop Awards, and he would start each day with updates on market prices for crops and livestock.

Steven and Sandra Whitmer were united in marriage on September 5, 1964, in the United Methodist Church in Galva, Iowa. The couple was blessed with two children, Shannan and Reid. They lived on Steve's farm, until they later moved to the home place.

Steven was an avid fan of anything related to the old west or cowboy culture, which likely started when he and his cousin John would use their guns to guard the house attic from their sisters Catherine and Mary Ann! Consequently, he devoured any media with a western theme. He purchased many western history books when he was traveling.

Steven loved social gatherings and events, and he could not only be counted on to accept an invitation, but to actually attend and participate! Steven authentically valued time spent with friends, as well as enjoying the small, casual, and random events. He never missed a class reunion during Popcorn Days. Steven enjoyed trips to local fairs sometimes to watch the people, but often to meet and converse with new people. He loved going to local dances

and also liked to trap shoot after he arrived at the Gun Club.

Steven had many joys during his life, but none more than his children, grandchildren, and finally, great grandchildren. Any friend of Steven's could expect a certain amount of teasing along the way, and he was very adept about remembering their birthdays. Steven was known for his compassion, and he was very quick to extend his greetings or sympathies to others. While a resident at Methodist Manor, he could be counted on to tease his caregivers, but not too much, and mostly with the hope they would tease him back! These caregivers expressed many times after Steve's passing how much they would miss him and his teasing.

Left to cherish, celebrate, and maintain Steven's memory are his children: daughter Shannan Schmidt, Schaller, Iowa; son Reid (Christine) Schaefer, Perry, Iowa; grandchildren: Kennedy Sibbitt Bragg, Omaha, NE, Carter Bragg, Cherokee, Iowa; great grandchildren: Elva and Opal Sibbitt, Omaha, NE; sister Catherine (Allan) Christiansen, Glenwood, Iowa, and their children Andrew (Sahba) Christiansen and their son, Kian, Rancho Mission Viejo, CA; Matthew (Jodi) Christiansen, Mountain View, CA; Mark (Annelise) Christiansen, St. Louis Park, MN; first cousins John Brinkman and family St. Louis, MO; Mary Ann (Joe) Clinton and family, Edina, MN, Sandra Marmolejo, Riverside, CA; and extended family, cousins, and many friends near and far.

Steven was preceded in death by his parents and grandparents Edwin and Laura Schaefer, Milton and Helene Reinhart; son-in-law Douglas Schmidt; great niece Layla Christiansen; Sandra Schaefer (Shannan and Reid's mother); close Aunt and Uncle Bill and Dorothy Brinkman; and cousins Thomas (Velma) Reinhart; Marcia Brinkman and Alex Marmolejo.

# Cemetery Details

## Schaller Cemetery -- Schaller

200th Street  
Schaller, IA 51053

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **25**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - Schaller  
306 S Main St  
Schaller, IA 51053  
(712) 275-4205  
jensenfuneralhomes@gmail.com  
<https://www.fratzkejensen.com>

## Memorial Service

APR **26**. 10:30 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church -- Schaller  
100 West 3rd Street  
Schaller, IA 51053

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Steven M. Schaefer*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - April 25, 2025 at 01:10 PM



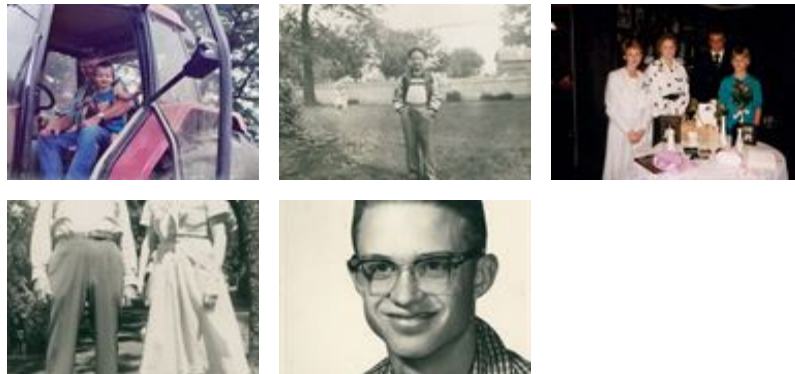
“ *Don Crouch lit a candle in memory of Steven Schaefer*



Don Crouch - April 26, 2025 at 01:32 AM



“ *52 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - April 25, 2025 at 01:08 PM

FH

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - April 25, 2025 at 11:31 AM

TF

“ The Madsen Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Steven M. Schaefer.



The Madsen Family - April 23, 2025 at 11:38 PM

TF

“ The Madsen Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven Schaefer.

The Madsen Family - April 23, 2025 at 11:38 PM

DE

“ debzerfoss@hotmail.com lit a candle in memory of Steven Schaefer



debzerfoss@hotmail.com - April 11, 2025 at 03:39 PM

MK

“ Steve always had an interesting story to tell. He will be missed. RIP Schaefer!

Mike and Connie Kahnke - April 02, 2025 at 11:53 AM

DM

“ DeeAnn Madsen lit a candle in memory of Steven Schaefer



DeeAnn Madsen - March 31, 2025 at 12:51 PM

SF

“ Sympathies to the Schaefer family on your loss! Steve touched a lot of people through his walk.....and it was an interesting one! Always fun! Steve Frank



Steven Frank - March 28, 2025 at 06:48 AM

SC

“ Rest in peace Schaeffer. Always a ton of fun and a good conversation when he was around. Prayers to Schaeffer family. 🙏



Samantha Corrin - March 27, 2025 at 09:06 PM

DM

“ *Dave Merten lit a candle in memory of Steven Schaefer*



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**Dave Merten** - March 26, 2025 at 12:39 PM

SM

“ *R.I.P Steve*



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**Stephan Mickelson** - March 26, 2025 at 08:24 AM

CR

“ *connie roche lit a candle in memory of Steven Schaefer*



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**connie roche** - March 25, 2025 at 11:33 PM