



Steven R Schmillen

March 29, 1947 - November 22, 2010

Steven Ray Schmillen was born in LeMars, IA on March 29th, 1947 to parents Ray and Marian (Stowater) Schmillen. He grew up in Marcus, IA where he was active in football, track, fishing, hunting and helping on the family farm. He was an active member of Faith Lutheran Church. He attended Marcus Community Schools graduating in 1965. During his middle school years he met his future wife, Ina Irwin. Steven and Ina married on June 24th, 1967 at the Meadow Star Church in rural Washta, IA. He attended Ellsworth Junior College where he also played football. After two years he transferred to Westmar College and received degrees in Physical Education and Science in 1969. He also started his family with the birth of his first daughter, Michelle.

He started a teaching career in Dunlap, IA that involved Physical Education and Science. He put his experience with sports to work by becoming a well respected coach in both football and track from 1969-1978. His compassion for helping others led him to work as a volunteer EMT with the Dunlap Fire and Rescue Unit. He was an active member in the Masons of Iowa, Logan, IA chapter. He could often be found hunting and fishing in the local hills and ponds of the surrounding areas. His family grew with the birth of daughters Sue, Cyndi, and Sherry. After a nine year teaching career, Steve took a job as an insurance agent/manager and moved to Elkhorn, NE in 1980 working with firms that included New York Life, INA, and CNA.

In recent years, he kept himself busy with laser etching and woodworking. He continued his passion for the outdoors with many hunting and fishing trips to Canada and Alaska. He enjoyed frying his catch for his friends. This is where he perfected his recipes for both Eggs Benedict and Stromboli. They were the best and he would have told you so. At 8:00 every night you would find him at the computer playing international bridge. He truly enjoyed all of these hobbies, but most of all he enjoyed entertaining a captive audience with his “jokes” and storytelling. With a dream to fly, he obtained his pilot’s license and made many memorable trips with Ina, family and friends.

Steve was a man of faith who was active at Bethany Lutheran Church. His faith and leadership grew stronger through the fellowship and bonding of the M.O.B. (Men of Bethany). He was an active member of The West Omaha Cosmopolitan Club.

Steve is preceded in death by his daughter Sue Ann and father Raymond. He is survived by wife Ina; daughters and sons-in-law Michelle Clinton of Sarasota, FL, Cyndi and Josh Robirds of Lakewood, CO, Sherry and Jim Minge of Omaha, NE; grandchildren Cordell Schmillen, Nigel and Ava Clinton, Stella and Vivian Minge; Mother Marian Schmillen of Marcus, IA; brothers and sisters-in-law Mike and Gloria Schmillen of Spencer, IA and Kent and Kathy Schmillen of Cherokee, IA; and many nieces and nephews.

Schmillen, Steven age 63 of Elkhorn, NE

Preceded in death by his daughter Sue Ann and father Ray. Survived by wife Ina; daughters and sons-in-law Michelle Clinton of Sarasota, FL, Cyndi and Josh Robirds Lakewood, CO and Sherry and Jim Minge of Omaha; grandchildren Cordell, Nigel, Ava, Stella and Vivian. Mother Marian Schmillen of Marcus, IA; brothers and sisters-in-law Mike and Gloria of Spencer, IA and Kent and Kathy of Cherokee, IA. Visitation Friday 4 to 8 PM with family

receiving friends from 6 to 8 at the funeral home. Funeral Saturday 10 AM at Bethany Lutheran Church in Elkhorn. Interment Prospect Hill. Family would appreciate memorials to a College Trust Fund for Steve's grandchildren.

Condolences to www.reichmuthfuneralhomes.com

Reichmuth Funeral Home

21901 W. Maple Rd. 402-289-2222

Tribute Wall



“ Steven R Schmillen

December 10, 2022 at 09:12 AM



“ I met Steve at Bethany Lutheran, and got to know him through the MOB. I always enjoyed his humor. We exchanged many " flying stories " between us. He will be greatly missed. God must have needed a good pilot.

Dale Robson - December 03, 2010 at 10:18 AM



“ When the Lord took Steve Home, he leaves something Special in his place. He leaves a gift of memories in exchange. Marian, you have fond memories of your first born, taking his first step and all his accomplishments in his life. Ina, you have all the happy memories of your teenage years together, watching him raise a family and achieving his goals in life. Mike and Kent you had the honor of growing up with him. Keep all the fond memories and let them guide you during this difficult time. Bless you all. Helen DuCharme, David Stowater & Scott Stowater.

Helen DuCharme - November 29, 2010 at 02:40 PM



“ So sorry for your loss..Steve was a special fellow. he always had a smile, a joke, and a kind word.Class reunions won't be the same..so as you remember the love, and you mourn the loss, may you also celebrate the life..My prayers are with you all.

Linda Rae Rizzolo - November 29, 2010 at 12:08 AM

ME

“ i remember Steve as a man amongst men. He was a man of great personality, good family man, great husband and grandfather and a true outdoors-man i enjoyed very much fishing with him in Canada. i still have a birch bragging stick he carved for me hanging in my man cave showing where we fished and where and the size of the big fish i caught on that Canadian fishing trip. I remember so vivid him fishing with long fly rod and catching large northern pike with it. i remember the stories we all told after lights out at the island lodge and the wonderful dinner rolls he would stir up for the evening meal I knew of his passion to fly and did not have the opportunity to play chess with hi on line but heard how competitive he was at it. As you gather as a family to say good bye I am thinking of all of you Ina and your girls and grandchildren, Marian, Kent and his family and Mike and his family and the Irwin family also. i was privileged that I was able to share a small piece of his life. Good bless all of you and God bless Steve Mike and Vicki Earnest

Mike Earnest - November 26, 2010 at 11:34 AM

LG

“ Cyndi and family:
I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. Please know your family is in our prayers.

Lou Ann Gray - November 25, 2010 at 06:08 PM

SS

“ We are all so sad for you all to have had to go through a tragedy like this. We remember so well how this felt, and pray that your pain will be lessened in the coming days. Your family at least had the joys of so much valuable time together, and take comfort in realizing he is in a place of joy and salvation. That is the one thing that always comforted me to remember that we can all be together again in due time. God Bless you all - Stephanie Simons Spieler

Stephanie Simons Spieler - November 25, 2010 at 10:46 AM

LL

“ I am so deeply saddened to hear of the loss of such a dear friend. Ina and family my thoughts and prayers are with you. This man will be so missed by so many. I really enjoyed making contact again recently with you and Steve, Ina. We covered all of the memories of being neighbors up the road, members of Faith Lutheran, high school at Marcus and just plain growing up and raising our families. He was so proud of his family, his brothers, his mother and his wood working. About a month ago he greeted me at Red Lobster when I was there with some friends and my friends commented " what a fun and friendly man". Mike and Gloria, Kent and Kathy and Marion remember his smile, his love for family and all the good times. May God's Love circle around you.

Linda Ferrin Lair - November 25, 2010 at 01:38 AM

BH

“ Steve was a coach a teacher and a friend will he was in Dunlap. We had the utmost respect for a man that pushed us to be the best.

Bob Heffernan - November 24, 2010 at 10:08 PM

JM

“ Ina and family, My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Joyce Marsh

Joyce Marsh - November 24, 2010 at 05:17 PM

RL

“ Our deepest sympathies go out to you. I have such fond memories of your family, even though I was so little when we lived in Dunlap. Your entire family holds a special place in my heart...memories of the Delorean, the homemade ice cream "marathon" when you visited us in Rock Valley, and the hospitality you showed when my dad and I came back to visit a few times, just to name a few. My mom and dad are just heartbroken at the passing of this special person. May God be with you and comfort you.

*Rachel Langenhorst
Daughter of Jerry and Glenda Burgers*

Rachel (Burgers) Langenhorst - November 24, 2010 at 03:58 PM

KM

“ My condolences to Steve's wife and family for your loss. Although I only met Steve one time when I was a participant at a One Year To Live retreat in East Troy, Wisconsin he became a brother to me and to all men through OYTL and Lutheran Men in Mission. My prayers are with you all during this time.

Ken Moats - November 24, 2010 at 03:33 PM

JB

“ Mr. Schmillen was a teacher and a friend. While he was in Dunlap he had the unique ability to not only be stern but be a friend not just with the kids but the local adults also. I have always had and will have the utmost respect for him and the Schmillen Family.

Jerry

Jerry Baldwin - November 24, 2010 at 02:11 PM

DN

“ My son is a pilot so I am always drawn to any news stories about airplanes. I was shocked to hear of the name associated with a news story this week. I am so sorry to hear of Steve's passing. Having grown up in Marcus as a classmate of Mike's and having gone to Faith Lutheran Church with the Schmillen family - I am deeply saddened by what has happened. May God and your faith in him help you at this difficult time.

David Nestor - November 24, 2010 at 11:23 AM

KE

“ Dear Michelle and family,
Although it has been a few years since we have talked I wanted to take a moment and extend our sympathy for the loss of your dad. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. I happened to see the interview on the news with your mom and she spoke of your dad with such love and admiration. Again our thoughts are with you.

Kim and Eric Lueders eklueders@cox.net - November 24, 2010 at 01:11 AM

LF

“ To the family of Steve Schmillen,
I am so very very sad for your loss. Steve was a great Dad, Husband, brother and son. Marion, I am so, so sorry for the loss. All of you hang on to your wonderful memories. He will be missed by all. Glad he was doing what he enjoyed!! I am so glad I was able to talk to him at my parents 60th anniversary. It was great touching bases again. I have been following this story for 2 days now and was shocked to find out it was someone I knew. Ina and girls you have my deepest sympathies.

Luci Ferrin

Luci Ferrin - November 23, 2010 at 10:36 PM

MH

“ Mrs.Schmillen, I am not sure if you remember me, I used to work with Cyndi. My memory of Mr. Schmillen is of him teaching me how to change my brakes on my car, quite a few years ago. When Cyndi first took me to your house, I thought he was going to change them, but instead he made ME change the brakes, so I would know how to do it myself. I must say, I was very proud of myself afterward. Mr. Schmillen was the person who gave me that knowledge and I still appreciate that to this day. My prayers are with you and the rest of the family at this sad time.

Melanie Haynes-McCurry - November 23, 2010 at 08:04 PM

JF

“ Ina..I am so very sorry to hear of Steve's death. He was a very good friend and I did so enjoy his fun loving personality. Spending time with both of you at the KH&S parties was a evening that I always looked forward to. My sincere sympathy for your great loss as I shall always remember him with nothing but loving thoughts.

Joan Fishback - November 23, 2010 at 07:19 PM