



Fred J. Schmidt Sr.

December 27, 1925 - January 14, 2021

Fred J. Schmidt, Sr., 95, of Spencer passed away on Thursday, January 14, 2021 at St. Luke Lutheran Home in Spencer. A memorial service for Fred will be held at a later date.

Fred was born on December 27, 1925 to Paul and Vera Schmidt in Remsen, IA. In 1943, he graduated from St. Mary's High School in Remsen, IA. After graduation, he spent the next two years helping supply his town power at the diesel power plant. He then attended Coyne College, a Journeyman School in Chicago, IL where learned about electricity. Fred came back to the area in 1952 and started working as a Lineman for Iowa Electric. He was united in marriage to Cleona Morrow on February 9, 1954 in Worthington, MN. She preceded him in death on September 24, 2016 in Spencer, IA.

Fred was a past member of the National Association of Lineman. In his free time, he enjoyed hunting, fishing and spending time with his grandson. He and Cleona enjoyed spending time in their trailer in Okoboji.

He is survived by his son Fred (Gina) Schmidt, Jr. of Milford; grandson Adam (Meredith) Schmidt of Seattle, WA; brother Ron (Jean) Schmidt of Minneapolis, MN and stepson Mike (Nadine) McHHugh of Hendrix, MN. He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife Cleona.

Tribute Wall

DD

“ First of all, my condolences to you on your loss. Fred had a much bigger impact on my life than I am sure he realized. When I was a young lad, Fred was my hero. I so wanted to be a lineman like Fred, I had strung used baling twine from tree to tree in our grove to imitate a real electrical system. When he would stop to read the electric meter, I would show him the latest addition to my system.

My life choice for a vocation changed one evening. We were having what today would be called a severe thunderstorm. The wind was blowing and it was raining very hard. Did I forget to mention the lightning and thunder? A mile south of Everly Fred's pickup was parked and Fred was working on the line thirty or forty feet in the air with only his pickup's spotlight and frequent lightning for illumination. This was before bucket trucks so Fred had used his spikes to climb that pole. That evening I concluded that nothing like that had been in my imaginary twine string system in our grove.

I changed my future thoughts of a safer vocation to becoming a veterinarian which I did. At the time I did not realize bulls did not like the idea of becoming steers and not all dogs and cats are friendly. But I pursued and became a veterinarian and practiced for 46 years before retiring. More than once I have wondered what would have happened to me if Fred had not been on that pole that night.

Anyway, my condolences to you on losing a great person who had a huge influence on my life.

David L. Fell, D.V.M.

David L. Fell, D.V.M - January 24, 2021 at 04:16 PM

SJ

“ We were so sorry to hear of Freds death. We have alot of good memories of him and Cleona at the camper at Hedge Row with aunt Ruth. I am so glad he got to spend his last years at Saint Lukes so Amanda could get to know the Fred we always loved. Our deepest sympathy to the family. Steve and Sue Juenemann

Susan Juenemann - January 23, 2021 at 09:07 AM

MT

“ Mike & Deb Travis lit a candle in memory of Fred J. Schmidt Sr.



Mike & Deb Travis - January 22, 2021 at 05:16 PM

JD

“ Lots of memories with Fred & Cleone in our condo building years ago in the 90s. They were part of the condo group that introduced my husband and I!
You'll always have a special place in our hearts!
Love, Brad & Jill Droegmiller

Jill Droegmiller - January 22, 2021 at 01:06 PM



Katherine
Flowers
Bigger

“ My sincere condolences to the family and friends 🙏🙏🙏❤️

Katherine Flowers Bigger - January 22, 2021 at 10:25 AM

RB

“ Rosemary Booth lit a candle in memory of Fred J. Schmidt Sr.



Rosemary Booth - January 21, 2021 at 07:49 PM

DR

“ I have a lot of memories of working with Fred through storms and good weather while at Iowa Electric. We played many card games throughout the years. And I even won a couple.



Dean Ricker - January 20, 2021 at 06:05 PM

BS

“ Fred and Cleone both were very close friends to our family. Dean, Reva, Fred and Cleone- many good memories. They are and will be missed.
Bob and Dee Starkey



Bob and Dee Starkey - January 20, 2021 at 05:43 PM

NR

“ Nancy Rickman lit a candle in memory of Fred J. Schmidt Sr.



Nancy Rickman - January 18, 2021 at 02:17 PM

MW

“ *Mr. Dean Wolterman lit a candle in memory of Fred J. Schmidt Sr.*



Mr. Dean Wolterman - January 18, 2021 at 12:06 AM

MW

Fred and his wife, Cleona, were very special friends to myself and my parents. God Speed!!

Mr. Dean Wolterman - January 18, 2021 at 12:10 AM

KR

“ *Karen Ricker lit a candle in memory of Fred J. Schmidt Sr.*



Karen Ricker - January 17, 2021 at 01:10 PM



“ *Melissa Deal Weber lit a candle in memory of Fred J. Schmidt Sr.*



Melissa Deal Weber - January 15, 2021 at 09:56 PM

RN

“ My condolences to Fred and his family in the loss of a fine man. Many prayers.



Rhonda And David Nelson - January 15, 2021 at 07:28 PM

DB

“ My sympathy to the family.

Dayle Brooks



Dayle Brooks - January 15, 2021 at 04:45 PM

MT

“ He was a wonderful close friend to the Ricker family and especially my father Dean Ricker Dad and Fred shared many memories together. He will be missed by Dad and all of us. Praying for comfort for his family.



Marcia Taylor - January 15, 2021 at 03:12 PM

GB

“ Greg & Dee Baloun lit a candle in memory of Fred J. Schmidt Sr.



Greg & Dee Baloun - January 15, 2021 at 12:01 PM

CP

“ *Sending tons of prayers and happy thoughts to the whole family... Carmen (Miller) Parsons*



Carmen M Parsons - January 15, 2021 at 11:53 AM

MO

“ *Praying for your family as you make arrangements in these Covid times.*

Martha Oskvig - January 15, 2021 at 10:43 AM

PN

“ *Pat Norton lit a candle in memory of Fred J. Schmidt Sr.*



Pat Norton - January 15, 2021 at 10:01 AM

EM

“ *Edward Morse lit a candle in memory of Fred J. Schmidt Sr.*



Edward Morse - January 15, 2021 at 10:00 AM

CB

Prayers to Cork and Gina and family. Mom and I enjoyed visits. Claudette Delaughter Barr and Scottie Delaughter.

Claudette Delaughter Barr - January 15, 2021 at 12:36 PM

BC

“ *Bill And Cheryl lit a candle in memory of Fred J. Schmidt Sr.*



Bill and Cheryl - January 14, 2021 at 10:47 PM

BD

“ *Bonnie V Duhn lit a candle in memory of Fred J. Schmidt Sr.*



Bonnie V Duhn - January 14, 2021 at 08:17 PM