

I'M FREE

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free,
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took his hand when I heard Him call,
I turned my back and left it all.

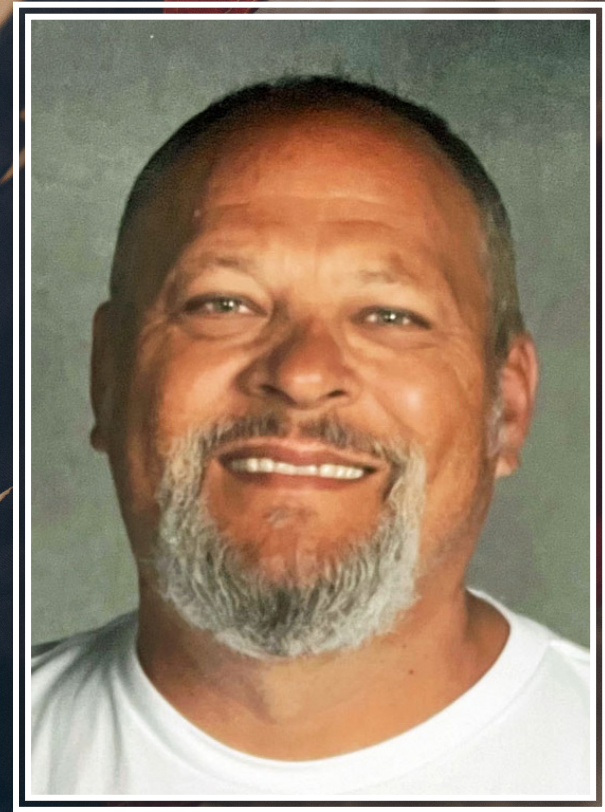
I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks undone must stay that way,
I found that peace at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah, yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much,
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my life seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now: He set me free.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF



GREGORY J. SCHAEFER

July 29, 1970 – October 13, 2022

Gregory John Schaefer, 52, went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, October 13th, 2022, surrounded by his loving family. He leaves behind his wife, Michelle, and his children, Maliyah (10) and Mack (8).

Greg was born July 29, 1970, to Calvin and Mildred (Stupka) Schaefer. He attended Garner-Hayfield Community Schools graduating in 1989. Greg attended Northwestern College on a football scholarship, then matriculated to Iowa State University and the University of Northern Iowa receiving a degree in Construction Management. Greg always wanted a family of his own and after numerous hints by friends and siblings, he met and married the love of his life, Michelle Martin on September 24, 2011. Greg and Michelle established their first home in Ames and a few years later settled down in Madrid, Iowa. He worked at Con-struct in Ames for over twenty years and was respected as a hardworking, dedicated employee earning the respect and admiration of all. Greg enjoyed hunting and fishing with his lifetime loyal friends. However, his first love was the time he spent with his family. He loved nighttime prayers and reading stories to Maliyah and Mack, while sitting on a chair between their bedrooms. Maliyah loved playing games especially rolling pin. Mack's favorite time with his dad was learning to mow on the riding lawn mower and how to shoot a gun. His family will always remember "Daddio's" loving hands and embracing arms.

Greg is survived by his wife, Michelle; daughter, Maliyah; son, Mack; his siblings, Sandy (Dennis) Hejlik of Charlotte, NC, Lindy (Gary) Lemke of Billings, MT, Janelle Luppen of Billings, MT, Joanne (Al) Smith of Rocky Mount, NC and Joe Schaefer of Carnation, WA. Having arrived in his family a decade later than his siblings, he grew up enjoying shenanigans with his nephews and niece: Jamie and Ben Lemke, Jason Hejlik and Jill Brady, and later in life with his brother's children, Michael, Jenny, Kelly, and Ryan Schaefer. He is also survived by his parents-in-law, Denny and Gail Martin of Iowa Falls; and brother-in-law, Blake (Nikki) Martin of Garner and their children, Emily and Brody Seims.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joe and Millie; and nephew, Ben Lemke.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the family.

Celebrating the Life of **GREGORY J. SCHAEFER**

July 29, 1970 – October 13, 2022
Age: 52 Years, 2 Months, 14 Days

FUNERAL MASS

St. Boniface Catholic Church – Garner, Iowa
11 a.m., Saturday, October 22, 2022

CELEBRANT

Rev. Fr. Andrew Marr

LECTORS

Joe Schaefer, Lindy Lemke, Dennis Hejlik

MUSIC

Mary Kopacek, Organist
Mallory Hartwig, Cantor
St. Boniface Choir

USHER

Francis Oborny

HONORARY BEARERS

Jason Hejlik	Jamison Lemke	Ben Lemke (In Spirit)
Blake Martin	Michael Schaefer	Ryan Schaefer

CASKET BEARERS

Joe Schaefer	Wade Greiman	Shane Peterson
Brad Erickson	Mike Best	Travis Bierle
Eric Dodd		Jason Cagle

*All are invited to join the family for a time of fellowship
and a luncheon in the church basement immediately
following the graveside service.*

Cafaldo
FUNERAL HOMES