

In Loving Memory of

Raymond “Ray” Francis Schmitz

February 18, 1930 ~ September 6, 2024

Memorial Service

Friday, October 18, 2024 ▪ 10:00 AM

Parkway Funeral Service ▪ 2330 Tyler Pkwy

Bismarck, North Dakota

Interment

Friday, October 18, 2024 ▪ 1:00 PM

North Dakota Veterans Cemetery

Mandan, North Dakota



Raymond "Ray" Francis Schmitz, 94, of Bismarck, North Dakota, passed away peacefully on Friday, September 6, 2024.

Born on February 18, 1930, Ray lived a life dedicated to his family, community, country, and his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Ray will always be remembered for his gentle spirit, strong work ethic, engaging personality, and willingness to help anyone in need. Ray made many friends along the way and will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Proudly serving in the Korean War, Ray exemplified a strong sense of duty and loyalty. After returning home, he spent many fulfilling years farming his family's farm in the Fessenden/Harvey area, which he cherished deeply. In addition to farming, he supplemented his work by bartending, driving a school bus, and working in the crop insurance industry. His commitment to his community was further exemplified by his service as a Wells County Commissioner.

In 1955, Ray married the love of his life, Agnes Deck, and together they raised four loving children: Geri (Scott), Mary (Mark), Alan (Deb), and Jim (Kim). He is also survived by nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. In addition, Ray has three surviving siblings, Emelie, Linda, and Harold.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Agnes, his parents Frank and Gertrude, and his sister Dorothy.

Ray's family was the cornerstone of his life, and he took immense pride in nurturing their growth and well-being.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Cystic Fibrosis Association of North Dakota, UNICEF, or charity of choice. The family would especially like to thank the Benedictine Living Community for the exceptional care given during his time there. It was apparent they had adopted Ray as a loved member of their family and not just a patient. We also want to express our appreciation to Hospice of the Red River Valley for their care and support. Thank you for walking our family through this journey. We could not have done it without you.

Rest in peace, Ray. Your legacy of love and kindness will live on in our hearts. We love you and will miss you dearly.

Welcome

Pastor Bryce Meyer

Prayer

Pastor Bryce Meyer

Scripture Readings and Thoughts

Jim Schmitz and Family

Reading of Obituary

Geri Johnson

Stories of Raymond

Mary Brakel and Alan Schmitz

Special Song

“Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone”

Sung by Mandy Anderson, Geri Johnson

Message

Pastor Bryce Meyer

Closing Prayer

Pastor Bryce Meyer

Commendation and Dismissal

Lunch Immediately Following Downstairs

Burial Service 1:00 PM ND Vet Cemetery

Recessional

Geri Johnson

Following the service, the family invites you to join them for lunch and fellowship in the Community Room at Parkway.

A close-up photograph of an American flag, showing the stars and stripes in detail. The flag is draped and slightly wrinkled, with the blue field of stars on the left and the red and white stripes on the right.

A Celebration of Life

WHEN TOMORROW STARTS WITHOUT ME

*When tomorrow starts without me and I'm not there to see,
If the sun should rise and find your eyes, all filled with tears for me;
I wish so much you wouldn't cry the way you did today,
While thinking of the many things we didn't get to say.*

*I know how much you love me, as much as I love you,
And each time that you think of me, I know you'll miss me too.
But when tomorrow starts without me, please try to understand,
That an angel came and called my name, and took me by the hand,
And said my place was ready, in heaven far above,
And that I'd have to leave behind, all those I dearly love.*

*But as I turned to walk away, a tear fell from my eye,
For all my life, I always thought, I didn't want to die.
I had so much to live for, and so many things to do,
It seemed almost impossible that I was leaving you.*

*So when tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart,
For every time you think of me, I'm right here in your heart.*

RAY SCHMITZ

FEBRUARY 18, 1930 ~ SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

