



Lyle R. Schmidtke

July 10, 1936 - October 18, 2020

Lyle Richard Schmidtke, 84, of North Fond du Lac, died on Sunday, October 18, 2020, with his family by his side.

He was born July 10th, 1936 in Kaiser, WI to Peter and Ethelle (Smith) Schmidtke. Lyle was raised in Highbridge, WI and graduated from Mellen High School in 1954. Immediately following graduation, Lyle enlisted in the U.S. Army. He proudly served his country during the Korean War as a Cryptosecurity Specialist where he earned the Good Conduct Medal and National Defense Service Medal. Following his honorable discharge from the Army, Lyle worked as a Conductor for the Soo Line and Canadian Pacific Railroads in Ashland, North Fond du Lac and Portage for 42 years, retiring on July 1, 1998.

Lyle married Karen Jane Jones on April 9th, 1960. They recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Lyle was a hands-on father, supporting their four sons in numerous sporting events and extracurricular activities. He was an extremely talented woodworker and his children and grandchildren treasure the special pieces he made for them. Lyle spent many hours traveling to his grandchildren's sporting events....rarely missing a game, meet or match. He also enjoyed times spent fishing and hunting with family and friends. He treasured the great times spent together more than a trophy on the wall. Lyle was always up for a lively card or cribbage game and his family and

friends will treasure those memories. One of Lyle's proudest moments was his trip to Washington D.C. on the Honor Flight with his son Rick.

Lyle is survived by his wife Karen, four sons: Reverend Scott (Reverend Kathleen), Rick (Dee), Tom (Diane) and Mike (Chauncey Hunker); four grandchildren: Kelly (Joe) Steger, Tommi (Alex) Bernklau, Tim (Erica Meulemans) and Brooke; step-granddaughter Makayla Reed-Schall; five great-grandchildren Harland Steger, Odin Bernklau, Sydney, Aiden and Nadia Reed-Schall; two brothers: Robert and Kenneth (Barbara), three sisters: Laura Hinton, Pat Hilton and Betty Munoz. Lyle is also survived by numerous brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and three sisters: Dorothy Christianson, Jeanette DeLeasky and Helen Nelson; and by his step-granddaughter Dr. Elizabeth Loar.

He was bullet-proof! He was a family man and great friend who was always loving but tough when needed. He quietly helped anyone in need. We feel blessed to have wonderful memories that will last us a lifetime.

Graveside services with full military honors will be held at noon on Saturday, October 24, 2020, at Cayuga Cemetery, Town of Morse.

Memorials are appreciated to the Stars and Stripes Honor Flight Wisconsin or the charity of one's choice.

The family wants to sincerely thank the staff at the William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital in Madison, the VA Beaver Dam Clinic and SSM Agnesian HealthCare in Fond du Lac for their compassionate care during the last several years.

Kurki Funeral Chapel & Crematory is serving the family, www.kurkifuneralchap

el.com. 920-921-4420

Cemetery Details

Cayuga Cemetery

Town of Morse, WI

Previous Events

Graveside Service

OCT **24**. 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM (CT)

Cayuga Cemetery
Town of Morse, WI

Tribute Wall



“ I attended Gale Institute Minneapolis with Lyle in 1957. I visited his family farm in Melon, Wisconsin that same year. His Railroad carrier was long, with Soo Line/ Canadian Pacific St Paul yard. He was a good man! Rest in peace dear friend. Frank J Seifert Pearce, Arizona.

FJS - June 24, 2024 at 07:29 PM



“ Lyle worked with my dad on the railroad. I met this wonderful family when I was 11 years old after the railroad company transferred from North Fond du Lac, WI to Portage, WI. Crazy thing is while my family was in NFDL until I was ten, Schmidtke family lived only two blocks from us and we never really knew them! Karen, you and Lyle will always be like a second set of parents to me. Karen like a mother to me especially in my pre-teen, teen, and early adult years. I'm hoping to reconnect soon.
RIP Lyle, an amazing loving man to all who knew him!
Peace and love to you Karen and your family. You are ALL in my thoughts and prayers.

Angela Hoover - October 25, 2020 at 04:50 PM

DS

“ *So many memories. Rest in peace. We all love you!* ”



Dee Schmidtke - October 23, 2020 at 01:06 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Lyle R. Schmidtke.* ”



October 22, 2020 at 07:17 PM

DR

“ *Our Deepest Sympathy Karen and her wonderful sons and spouses and grandchildren and great grandchildren.* ”

We are so very sorry for your loss and hope this finds you all in a place of healing.

Love Diane, Charles and Lindsey Reiter



Diane and Charles Reiter - October 22, 2020 at 11:52 AM

JW

Our deepest sympathy Karen and her family. We are so sorry for your loss. Love Jeanette Weinshrott and Angela Anderson

Jeanette Weinshrott - October 24, 2020 at 05:01 AM

JD

I served with Lyle in the Army Security Agency in the far east. We were very close. He was as good as they get in his job in the Army. I'm very sorry for your loss. He was as good a guy as there is.

John Devenish - June 21, 2022 at 09:06 PM

DR

*“ Dear Sister Karen and Schmidtke Family.
My heart is saddened by this big loss in your family. "Lyle Babes" was man who loved his family and cared about everyone. He will be sadly missed. I can say that Lyle gave "bear hugs" like no other person I know. He was always there to greet you with the "Bear Hug" that meant I love you and happy to see you. He will always be remembered and never forgotten. He leaves a legacy behind that will live forever as those closest to him carry on that torch and the beliefs that he cared so much about.*

We will miss you Lyle Babes but just know that "Well Done".

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=well+done+lyrics&view=detail&mid=4792E5FC66BF03223A814792E5FC66BF03223A81&FORM=VIRE>

Diane Reiter - October 22, 2020 at 11:44 AM


PH

“ *The meaning of family is fond memories with loved ones. Uncle Lyle was a great man and will be missed.*

Patrick & Linda Hilten



PATRICK HILTEN - October 21, 2020 at 09:31 PM

 Diane Hoover

“ *Lyle made me a beautiful oak hall tree/ bench with a mirror years ago, I brought it out to AZ with me and it will always be in my family. I remember a time when we lived in Portage and we had a huge wasp nest in a tree, Lyle got all dressed up in protection and came over to get rid of it for us. What a great guy! My deepest sympathy to all family and friends.*



Diane Hoover - October 21, 2020 at 07:28 AM

MA

“ As I sit and try to share the memories of days gone by I'm reminded of Lyles importance to my family. During our years in Fond du Lac Lyle was like a big Brother and a guide always willing to share his knowledge with Dave. He was like an Uncle to Ben. Sharing his humor and guidance with a gentle caring way Ben will always remember. To me he was a friend I could always look to for honesty. A joke when I needed and a kick in the pants if necessary. He was the best blasted cribbage player I've been up against. If we spent more than 10 minutes in a room together we'd have a quick game. Until we meet again My Friend each time I think of you I'll smile. Both my family and I are better people having known you. To Karen and the Four Fine Men you've raised you are in my heart, much Love, Mac

Mac - October 20, 2020 at 10:31 PM

PB

“ To the Schmidtke & Jones Family; you have my deepest sympathy of Lyle passing away. You will be in my thoughts and prayers!
Pam Behnke

Pam Behnke - October 20, 2020 at 06:20 PM

MS

“ Lyle had many roles; son, brother, grandson, loving husband, DAD, father-in-law, grandpa, great grandpa, uncle, friend, carpenter, conductor, Korean War Vet, just to name a few.

The one he was most proud of was DAD. He was my Dad, whom I didn't mind sharing with my brothers along with the many other kids who looked up to him.

To me, he was my very first best friend, my protector, my super hero, teacher and a role model. Dad lead by example with honesty and integrity. I will forever feel that hand on the back of my head if he knew I was telling a little white lie or doing something I shouldn't be doing. LOL! I could only hope to be half the man he was.

*You will be missed but not forgotten, Thank you for being My DAD!.
Love Michael (Mikey)*

P.S. You don't have to worry about Mom. She will be well taken care of, we got this!

Mike Schmidtke - October 20, 2020 at 10:27 AM

PH

“ After I graduated from high school, Lyle and my sister, Karen invited me to live with them, as I wanted to find a job in the “big” city of Fond du lac. My fondest memory of Lyle was every morning he would get up at 5 am and turn on the radio really loud. I thought “how can anyone sleep when he plays the radio so loud”. I asked him why he did that and he said “if he has to be up early, then everyone should be up that early”. I thought “really”. That was Lyle; like it or not, he opened up his home for me and always made me feel welcomed. Lyle and Karen were always there for family and willing to help out wherever they could. The summer of ‘69, living with them, will be a memory I will always cherish. Thank you for everything. Love you Lyle, may you rest In peace. Love Phyllis Zabransky

Phyllis - October 19, 2020 at 08:32 PM

PZ

“ Phyllis And Jim Zabransky lit a candle in memory of Lyle R. Schmidtke



Phyllis and Jim Zabransky - October 19, 2020 at 07:47 PM



“ 10 files added to the tribute wall



Brooke Schmidtke - October 19, 2020 at 07:16 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Lorena Dayton - October 19, 2020 at 03:14 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Lorena Dayton - October 19, 2020 at 01:36 PM

MK

“ *When I was a kid, I was always a little in awe and a little afraid of Mr. Schmidtke, he had a commanding presence. Of course, I had nothing to be afraid of!*

Dad and I send our heartfelt condolences to the entire Schmidtke family.

Mike Kohn - October 19, 2020 at 12:55 PM

MS

Thank you Mike!

Mike Schmidtke - October 19, 2020 at 07:24 PM

 Julie
Smith

“ *We will miss you and your contagious smile! Love, Your Northgate Family!*



Julie Smith - October 19, 2020 at 12:39 PM

KS

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Kelly Steger - October 19, 2020 at 12:19 PM

KS

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Kelly Steger - October 19, 2020 at 12:17 PM