



## Donald Leo Schmitt

June 25, 1945 - August 2, 2024

Donald 'Don' Leo Schmitt, age 79, of Glendive, Montana, passed away on Friday, August 2, 2024 at Benefis Healthcare in Great Falls, MT. A vigil service will be held at 7:00 pm on Friday, August 30, 2024 at Silha Funeral Home in Glendive. A Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:00 am on Saturday, August 31, 2024 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Glendive with Father Francis Schreiber officiating. A Private Rite of Committal will be held in the Dawson County Cemetery in Glendive. Silha Funeral Home of Glendive has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Born on June 25, 1945 in Harvey, ND, he was a devoted son to his parents, Matt and Helen Schmitt, a loving older brother to his twin sisters, Mary and Barbara, a devoted husband to Irene and a loving father to Larry and Christie. He was hard-working and dedicated to his family and business. Don owned and ran Birdsall Tire Company, starting out as an employee and working his way to ownership. He retired from the business in 2007, after being diagnosed with COPD. Many friends and customers joined him for morning coffee at the shop and trusted him with their vehicle maintenance and tires.

He coached both Larry and Christie in baseball and softball for many years. Don loved all sports and was an avid Seattle Seahawks and Mariners fan. After he retired, you would find him rocking in a chair near the front door, watching sports; baseball, football, basketball, golf, horse racing, bowling, you name it. The only thing he loved as much as sports were game shows, especially the Price is Right. When the television was cranked up so he could

hear it, you would be sure to hear a game show or a sports broadcast. One thing many people may not know, or remember, is that Don had an amazing singing voice. He played guitar in his younger years and was even in a band. Come Sunday mornings in church, you could hear him sing in the choir and in the congregation. He sang at many weddings and funerals. Unfortunately, due to his COPD, the gift of song was taken from him too early. He served on various board of directors in the Glendive community. He volunteered as the VFW chaplain, as life-long member with the Knights of Columbus, at the church and hospital when the local priest was not available, and as a listening ear to those who needed one.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, Matt and Helen Schmitt, and his wife Irene Schmitt.

He is survived by his two children, Larry Schmitt of Billings, MT, and Christie (Brett) Gilleo of Great Falls; 2 grandchildren, Zander and Gavin Gilleo; two step grandchildren, Kody and Christopher Gilleo; two sisters, Mary Ranta of Great Falls, and Barb (Bob) Skaggs of Nye, MT; a nephew, Eric (Bobbie) Skaggs of Billings; and two nieces, Jennifer (Chuck) Jacobs of Billings, and Katie (Josh) Larson of Great Falls.

Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at [www.silhafuneralhomes.com](http://www.silhafuneralhomes.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Dawson County Cemetery

Corner of North Sargent Ave. and East Allard  
Street  
Glendive, MT 59330

# Previous Events

## Vigil Service

**AUG 30.** 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (MT)

Silha Funeral Homes - Glendive, Montana  
221 N. Meade Avenue  
P.O. Box 848  
Glendive, MT 59330  
(406) 377-2622  
silha@midrivers.com  
<https://www.silhafuneralhomes.com>

## Mass of Christian Burial

**AUG 31.** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (MT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
316 West Benham Street  
Glendive, MT 59330

# Tribute Wall

DU

“ Larry and Christie, I want to let you know how much he helped me as a friend, priest and wonderful man. My first job in teaching was in Saco. Your dad helped me start my career. I started at 21. Teaching Business and coaching, girls basketball and girls track. That year he helped me coach girls basketball. We were successful in basketball and track. The thing he did for me was to help me in any way he could. I had a very successful career in teaching and coaching. We drove to Glasgow to play handball. We cooked for each other and I started out a successful career. He advised me, when I needed it. He was one of the best friends. He was a Huskie through and through. I always remember his help. Thank you, Dave Uggetti, in the Summer Butte MT and Leisure World, Mesa, Arizona a gated community.

---

**David Uggetti** - May 25, 2025 at 09:44 PM

MC

“ Larry, sorry to her of your Dad's passing, Mike Costle

---

**Michael L Costle** - September 30, 2024 at 11:19 AM

SD

“ Larry and Christie, My thoughts and prayers are with you. Your Dad was an amazing man, giving to his family and community his many gifts of life.

---

**Sherilyn Senner Danielson** - September 02, 2024 at 03:24 PM

JS

“ *Jim & Donna Stanfill sent a virtual gift in memory of Donald Schmitt*



---

**Jim & Donna Stanfill** - August 26, 2024 at 04:55 PM

DT

“ *John and Debbie Tweet*



---

**Debbie Tweet** - August 24, 2024 at 12:27 PM

SD

“ *SUZANNE M DAMJANOVICH lit a candle in memory of Donald Schmitt*



---

**SUZANNE M DAMJANOVICH** - August 21, 2024 at 05:21 PM

KM

*Don and Irene were among the finest people I have ever met. I knew him as a young priest, and he was a good one, really a man of strong Faith. He impacted so many people. What a man, what a life!*

---

**kevin McGovern** - August 29, 2024 at 11:52 AM

ET

“ So sorry to hear of Don's passing. He and Irene are now together walking the streets of Heaven. I worked with Irene for many years and got to meet your dad through her. They were both very special people.



ED and Noreen Turnquist - August 08, 2024 at 07:57 PM

GE

“ Grace Koffler Evinrude lit a candle in memory of Donald Schmitt



Grace Koffler Evinrude - August 08, 2024 at 04:32 PM

SD

“ Larry and Christie, so sorry to hear about your Dads passing! They were such great neighbors, really enjoyed visiting with them both! They have now been reunited! Thoughts and prayers for your families! Steve and Vicki Donnelly

steve and vicki donnelly - August 07, 2024 at 10:48 PM

DV

“ Larry, Christie and family, so sorry for your loss. Don and Irene were the best and raised two great kids. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time 🙏



Deb and Pete Vogel - August 07, 2024 at 04:40 PM

VV

“ VVA#234 lit a candle in memory of Donald Schmitt



VVA#234 - August 06, 2024 at 01:17 PM

AS

“ I loved both your parents! They were such awesome people and I feel privileged to have known them!  
Anita Spencer



Anita Spencer - August 06, 2024 at 11:58 AM



“ Andeen Raymond lit a candle in memory of Donald Schmitt



Andeen Raymond - August 06, 2024 at 10:16 AM

BT

“ Don's Family I'm so sorry to hear! I enjoyed visiting with Don I holed the same night as your parents did. I have a lot of Fond Memories of both your parents so now they are reunited.  
RIP Don!  
Becky (Chouinars) Tipton

Becky Tipton - August 05, 2024 at 10:10 PM