



Willis "Willie" Lester Schmidt

February 12, 1933 - June 8, 2022

Willis "Willie" L. Schmidt, age 89 of Glendive, Montana, passed away on Wednesday, June 8, 2022, at his home in Glendive. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, July 16, 2022 starting at 11:00 am, at Zion Lutheran Church in Glendive with Pastor Avis Anderson officiating. Interment with military honors will follow in the Dawson Memorial Cemetery in Glendive. Silha Funeral Home of Glendive has been entrusted with the arrangements. Willis "Willie" Schmidt was born February 12, 1933, in Swanville, MN. The third son of Leonard and Anna (Ehrenberg-Schmidt). Willie was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Church.

Willie grew up on the family dairy farm, along with his three brothers. The boys worked hard, but also had plenty of mischievous moments, and have many stories they loved to share. Willie found his love of fishing from his dad, and any chance they could talk their dad into fishing was a good day. When they returned from fishing, his mom was always ready to clean and cook up their catch.

Willie attended Swanville High School where he excelled in football, basketball, and track. He graduated in 1952 and enlisted in the army. He was stationed in Hastings, NE, where he met the love of his life, Joan Dillard. They met at a roller-skating rink where Joan fell, and Willie ran over her skirt. They were married March 25, 1953 and celebrated 65 wonderful years until Joan's death in 2018.

The army moved them and their first child Pamela to Tacoma, WA, where

Willie had favor with the army and was given the responsibility of driving the colonel's jeep. He drove the old man's jeep as an extra in the movie "To Hell and Back". Where he met Audie Murphy and became a lifelong admiring fan. Willie and Joan's next move would be to Glendive, MT. This would be their hometown and where they welcomed three more children Dan, Renee, and Belinda. Willie worked for Wagner's Heating and Air Conditioning for over 30 years installing countless furnaces and air conditioners in schools, businesses, and homes. In the 1970's, with the encouragement of his wife, they became the team of "Willie's Heating & Air Conditioning." Joan served as the office manager. Willie's special skill of fabricating sheet metal earned him the title of "Tin Man" on his license plate. Willie finally retired in his 80's, but he would continue to answer phone calls with questions about furnaces, air conditioners, and boilers.

He will forever be remembered for his natural sense of humor and storytelling ability. He enjoyed spreading joy to his family, friends, doctors, nurses, and even strangers. Willie and Joan were the perfect compliment of one another. Dad's humor, and Mom's wit, and their generous spirit drew people toward them.

We are thankful for the legacy and dedication our parents had teaching us about the love of Jesus. Faithfully bringing us to Church and Sunday School. We rejoice in knowing that they are together in heaven. They will forever be missed, especially by their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Preceded in death by his wife Joan Schmidt, parents Leonard and Anna Schmidt, brother Elmer (Marilyn) Schmidt, sister-in-law Barbara Stephenson, and niece Stephanie Phillippe.

Willie is survived by his children Pamela (Jim) Sundsted of Westby, MT; Dan (Becky) Schmidt of Glendive, MT; Renee Day of Mankato, MN; and Belinda (Tom) Pavek of Sidney, MT. Grandchildren Michelle (Jakob) Cook, Melissa (James) Hobbs, Maria Sundsted, Jeffrey (Melissa) Schmidt, David (Shauna) Schmidt, Tiffany (Steven) Rhiger, Tyler Graham, Erin (Ryan) Baumgartner; and his great-grandchildren Hudson, Nolan, Ganon and Colton Cook; Ayden,

Ashdyn, Austen, Aleya, and Aevrett Hobbs; Mikala, Dillon, and Bridger Schmidt; Kaitlyn and Kaleb Rhiger; Kyle (Sophia), Madison, Nevaeh, Eli and Gabrielle Graham; and Tristyn Baumgartner.

Brother Elmer's children, Dennis (Brenda) Schmidt, Dorcas (Roger) Dowell, Shelly Lambrecht, Kenny, Ronnie, and Donnie Schmidt; brother Alvin (Kathy) Schmidt and his children, Cheryl (Greg) Schaffer, Daryl (Michele) Schmidt, Darwin (Carla) Schmidt, D'wayne (Nita) Schmidt; brother Larry (Donna) Schmidt and children, Linda (Allen) Hoelscher, Doug (Mary) Schmidt; sister-in-law Sherra Dawn Owens; and brother-in-law Kenny Stephenson, and their families.

Extended family in love Avis, Greg, and Bernie Anderson. Along with many other loved ones.

Cemetery Details

Dawson Memorial Cemetery

2816 West Towne Street
Glendive, MT 59330

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL 16. 11:00 AM (MT)

Zion Lutheran Church
401 Riverview Avenue
Glendive, MT 59330

Tribute Wall



“ Willis "Willie" Lester Schmidt

December 07, 2022 at 04:10 PM



“ Paul & Juanita McDanold lit a candle in memory of Willis "Willie" Lester Schmidt



Paul & Juanita McDanold - July 17, 2022 at 02:20 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Willis "Willie" Lester Schmidt.



July 14, 2022 at 08:18 PM



“ NANCY KORB lit a candle in memory of Willis "Willie" Lester Schmidt



NANCY KORB - July 14, 2022 at 09:56 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Willis "Willie" Lester Schmidt.*



July 11, 2022 at 01:19 PM



“ *Loretta McDanold Miller lit a candle in memory of Willis "Willie" Lester Schmidt*



Loretta McDanold Miller - June 19, 2022 at 11:44 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Willis "Willie" Lester Schmidt.*



June 17, 2022 at 09:51 PM



“ *What a delight to think of Willie and his wonderful sense of humor. He will be so missed by his family and friends but how gifted you all were to have such a good and loving man in your lives. Truly you are blessed. Be assured of my love and prayers*

Ruth Moericke - June 17, 2022 at 08:18 PM

NG

“ *Papa Willie you will greatly be missed* 🙏❤️



Nevaeh Graham - June 17, 2022 at 06:36 PM



“ *Sooo...many great memories at the Schmidt home while growing up. Horseback riding, ice skating and taking a dip on the creek! Willie was always ready and willing to help saddle up! A great guy in my memory book! Hugs to you all!*

Judy Rowse - June 17, 2022 at 05:42 PM

KS

“ *Sorry to hear of Willie's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this difficult time*
Noren and Karen Shanley



Karen Shanley - June 17, 2022 at 12:56 AM

BP

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Belinda Pavek - June 16, 2022 at 05:07 PM

BE

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Belinda - June 16, 2022 at 05:03 PM

BE

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Belinda - June 16, 2022 at 04:57 PM

BE

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Belinda - June 16, 2022 at 04:52 PM

TC

“ Great guy to work with!
Tom Clingingsmith



Tom Clingingsmith - June 16, 2022 at 09:02 AM

DH

“ *I'm so sorry to hear about Willie. You have my deepest sympathy. He was a wonderful man.* ”

Diane Henry - June 15, 2022 at 05:23 PM

TH

“ *I will miss my friend, Willie!* ”



Teresa Hathaway - June 14, 2022 at 03:47 PM



“ *Andeen Raymond lit a candle in memory of Willis "Willie" Lester Schmidt* ”



Andeen Raymond - June 14, 2022 at 12:10 PM

NK

“ *NANCY KORB lit a candle in memory of Willis "Willie" Lester Schmidt* ”



NANCY KORB - June 14, 2022 at 11:07 AM

MH

“ We’re sorry to hear of Willie’s passing. He was a fun person. He was a proud father and grandfather.
We first met Pam and Jim and we’re blessed to get to know the family. Marvin worked with Becky.
We were always welcome at the Schmidt home, and enjoyed many common interests. Those were the good days.

Marvin and Sue Howe - June 13, 2022 at 07:02 PM

WB

“ Sorry to see Willie's passing. Willie was a great tinman, good friend, and work companion. He will be missed by everyone that worked with him. Warren and Kathy Broeder

Warren Broeder - June 12, 2022 at 10:14 PM

GE

“ Grace Koffler Evinrude lit a candle in memory of Willis "Willie" Lester Schmidt



Grace Koffler Evinrude - June 12, 2022 at 02:05 PM

JS

“ Oh how I adored Him! The community adored him as well!! He will be missed. I will remember his laugh When we were young and mom and dad had card parties they were both there they both laughed with such joy, He would sneak my Sisters and I little-chocolate star candies and give us a wink.. In church the smile And the wink of his eye always gave great comfort and happiness I was blessed to be a part of that family and friendship for many years the time that is treasured always!! He is a true gentleman and a gem That will be one heck of a great guardian angel!!! may you find peace in all of his laughter and memories!! Hugs!! Jacky

Jacky Boje Saur - June 10, 2022 at 11:02 PM

VB

“ Willie was like a second father I loved him so very much.

Verna Bickford - June 10, 2022 at 10:18 PM

AA

“ Thanks to the Schmidt family for 68 years of wonderful memories, affection and love. Remembering Willie and Joan. "Friends are the family we choose." Hugs to Pam, Dan, Renee and Belinda and families. Avis, Greg and Bernie

Avis Anderson - June 10, 2022 at 10:14 PM

AA

“ A lifetime of memories celebrated with the Schmidt family! Rest in peace Willie and Joan. You are remembered with deep love and affection for 68 years of friendship. "Friends are the family we choose." Love to Pam, Dan, Renee and Belinda and their families.

Avis Anderson - June 10, 2022 at 10:10 PM

BT

“ *Dan and Family I'm sorry for your loss!
Cherish your Memories!*

Becky Tipton - June 10, 2022 at 09:11 PM

DG

“ *Dean And Kim George lit a candle in memory
of Willis "Willie" Lester Schmidt*



Dean and Kim George - June 10, 2022 at 07:29 PM

DG

“ *Deanand Kim George lit a candle in memory
of Willis "Willie" Lester Schmidt*



Deanand Kim George - June 10, 2022 at 07:27 PM

RB

“ *Rick And Karen Berg lit a candle in memory
of Willis "Willie" Lester Schmidt*



Rick and Karen Berg - June 10, 2022 at 12:23 AM