



Robert "Smitty" E. Schmidt

November 8, 1923 - December 8, 2018

Robert "Smitty" E. Schmidt, 95, of Centralia, passed away Saturday, December 8, 2018 at his home surrounded by his family.

He was born November 8, 1923 in Collinsville, son of Edward Schmidt and Myrtle (Wimberly) Schmidt. He married Bernice Marie (Isaak) Schmidt on August 6, 1949 and she survives in Centralia.

In addition to his wife of 69 years, Bernice Schmidt of Centralia, Bob is also survived by three daughters: Susan Minor and husband Mike of Walnut Hill, Mary Jo May of Centralia, and Lisa Watson and husband Marty of Iuka; a son-in-law: Russ Fletcher of Leander, TX; seven grandchildren: Jennifer Foronato and husband Anthony of Leander, TX, Sarah Berger and husband Brett of Aviston, Amy Willems and husband Joe of Lake St. Louis, MO, Donnie May and wife Laura of Chesterfield, MO, Derek May of St. Louis, MO, Jessica Koch and husband Jerry of Dix, and Stephanie Remer and husband Dave of Woodlawn; thirteen great-grandchildren: Romano and Benjamin Foronato of Leander, TX, Sophia and Madelyn Willems of Lake St. Louis, MO, Charlotte and Austin May of Chesterfield, MO, Emylee Sanders and husband Jordan of Woodlawn, Allyssa Doza of Dix, Jadehn Koch of Centralia, Jera Koch and daughter Meila of Breese, and Taylor, James and Kailee Remer all of Woodlawn; several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a daughter: Nancy Fletcher, a grandson: Michael Minor, two brothers: Thurmond Schmidt and Edmond Schmidt, and three sisters: Ruth Herst, Maxine Scheurich, and Alice Schmidt.

Bob served in the Navy Air Corp as a Pilot from 1943 - 1947. In 1949, Bob and his wife Bernice moved to Centralia after graduating from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. He started his teaching career in 1949 at Schiller School, where he taught history, health and science to the upper grades. He became the head coach of the Centralia Tiger's basketball team in 1961 after he started teaching Industrial Arts at Irving School. Bob taught and coached basketball and track for 33 years in Centralia. He was named "Coach of the Year" by the IBCA in 1978, where he had accomplished 317 games won, 131 lost and 6 State Championships. In 1993 he was inducted into the Centralia Sports Hall of Fame. He worked at the Centralia swimming pool as a lifeguard and eventually was assigned as the manager for 25 summers. While working at the pool, he also assisted

Howard Cooksey and Simon Franklin, Chief of Police, at the Teen Town Dances. Mass of Christian Burial will be held Friday, December 14, 2018 at 2:00 PM at St. Mary Catholic Church in Centralia with Monsignor David Darin and Father Dale Maxfield officiating. Burial will follow at Calvary Cemetery in Centralia. Military Honors will be accorded at the grave site by the American Legion Post 446 and V.F.W. Post 2055. Visitation will be held Friday morning from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home in Centralia. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Mary School and will be accepted at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home at 235 North Sycamore Street Centralia, Illinois 62801, (618)532-3523, who is honored to be of service to the Schmidt Family. Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com

Cemetery

Events

Calvary Cemetery

Gragg Street

Centralia, IL, 62801

DEC

14

Visitation

11:00AM - 01:30PM

Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home and Cremation Services
235 N Sycamore Street, Centralia, IL, US, 62801

DEC

14

Mass of Christian Burial

02:00PM

St. May's Catholic Church

135 North Elm Street, Centralia, IL, US, 62801

Comments



“ Coach Schmidt will forever be remembered as a true gentlemen, an outstanding coach, an impactful role model, and a dedicated educator. He was always there with a kind word and smile. He was quick with a word of encouragement to all. He will be missed, but never forgotten. Thank you, Coach. RIP.
Neal West

Neal West - December 18, 2018 at 06:13 PM



“ My deepest sympathy to Bernice and all family members. Robert was a wonderful man who I admired so much. Would be there for services but I'm wintering in TX
Nancy Jones

Nancy K Jones - December 15, 2018 at 01:53 PM



“ i will never forget how great he treated and helped all of the children each summer at the swimming pool.

bob logullo - December 14, 2018 at 12:13 PM



“ 10 files added to the album LifeTributes



Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services - December 13, 2018 at 08:52 PM



“Smitty, you made me swim free style with rotary breathing from the bubbles to the fountain and back without stopping - that was hard for a 6 year old! Thank-you, Coach. You built my love of swimming and you modeled what it means to be a 'good citizen'. You will forever be an anchor in my childhood memories." Christie Stonecipher

Christie Cistola - December 13, 2018 at 12:15 PM



“ 203 files added to the album LifeTributes



Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services - December 12, 2018 at 07:13 PM



“ Mrs Schmidt and family - wanted to pass on my condolences on Smitty's passing. I am Van Bell. I played on Smitty's first Tiger basketball team in 1961 and I also worked for Smitty as a life guard for two years at the city pool. Then saw him fairly often after that when Vicky and I were in town. I was always amazed when we talked how many details he could remember of our Tiger games and stories of the pool. He was a great man and I will miss him the opportunities to see and talk with him. He was one of the very early adult influences in my life. That is a special group of people. If you are having trouble placing me, you may remember attending my high school class reunion 5 years ago. We sat together at the same table. Having you all there was a treat for all of us.

We have you in our thoughts. Regards, Van and Vicky Bell

Van Bell - December 12, 2018 at 12:16 PM



“ Bob was a great man and the world is a lesser place after his passing. He was a great teacher, role model, and mentor.

Mace Carpenter - December 12, 2018 at 07:02 AM



“ Janet Finley-Huffman sent a virtual gift in memory of Robert "Smitty" E. Schmidt



Janet Finley-Huffman - December 11, 2018 at 09:57 PM



“ I met Bob as a student, him trying to teach us not cut off our fingers in shop class. He had such an easy manner about him. I always looked forward to the trip from Washington School to Irving school once a week. I later became part of a very close knit family, him at the head. I can't think of a better man. He was kind, and thoughtful. As the years passed , I would see him at a local fast food outlet, giving and taking the banter of his many friends. Always smiling. Always quick with a kind word. He was such a good father to his four daughters, and later, played the grandfather role as if were his part alone and a surrogate for hundreds of students who were lucky enough to have him as their teacher. I will miss him. To his family, may you find peace.

Bill Kays - December 11, 2018 at 08:17 PM



“ I first met Smitty 64 years ago when I was a 7th grader and he was my basketball coach. Many years later I thanked him for his guidance and teaching considering that I wasn't a very good player. He said that my ability at basketball wasn't as important as being involved and participating which in retrospect is why so many of us admired him. There is no question that he had a profound positive effect on all of his players and students as it did me. A good man. Smitty, may you rest in peace.

Gary Gherardini - December 11, 2018 at 12:13 PM



“ Thinking of you Jessica- I know how much you loved your Grandpa! Beth

beth mcfarland - December 11, 2018 at 12:09 PM



“ Came to know Mr Schmidt from so many visits at the swimming pool (we had season passes). I always thought his last name was Smitty, that is what we always heard him called, and being a young kid that is what we knew him by. He was a wonderful man and always nice to us, I don't ever remember seeing him upset. May you rest in peace in the comfort of Heaven. My prayer for your family is they find peace beyond all understanding, in Jesus name, Amen.

Dori Ann (Guthrie) Crow

Dori A Crow - December 11, 2018 at 08:30 AM