



## Kenneth Francis Schmitz

July 19, 1937 - September 24, 2020

Ken Schmitz was born on July 19, 1937 in Faribault, MN to Alex and Angela Schmitz. He grew up on a dairy farm where hard work, honesty and integrity were ingrained in him from an early age. He graduated from Bethlehem Academy in 1955, and shortly thereafter enlisted in the United States Navy as a welder and ship fitter. He served honorably for three years aboard the USS Coral Sea (CV43) and the USS Midway. Ken spent the majority of his career working for equipment manufacturers in the logging and timber industry; initially in production, and later in servicing and ultimately as a sales manager with a territory that ranged from Newfoundland to Texas. His customers became his friends, and they knew that when they needed something done right, they called Ken. When he retired at age 70, Ken and Lorna, his wife of 60 years, enjoyed taking trips around the country in their RV and spending time at their house in the mountains of North Carolina. They ultimately moved back to Virginia to be closer to family. Ken was also the catalyst for reconnecting with 62 of the men he proudly served with in the Navy so many years earlier, and brought together past friendships that endured a lifetime. Ken is survived by his wife Lorna, children Sandra, Kathleen, Joanne, and Wayne; along with 11 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. He also leaves behind sisters Marcella Burke, Sister Myrtle Schmitz, Irene Peterson, and brother Paul Schmitz. Ken was preceded in death by his parents, brothers-in-law Roland Burke and Harley Peterson, and granddaughter Leah Hoffman. A graveside service will be held 2 PM, October 10, 2020, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 7479 Richmond Rd, Williamsburg, VA, with a reception following in the Fellowship Hall.

A zoom link to watch the service can be found at:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/3912803972?pwd=c0RuRjRhM2VvVHV2U09UTjhCNzNnZz09>

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Ken's memory to Shriners Hospitals for Children, Attn: Office of Development, 2900 N. Rocky Point Dr., Tampa, FL 33607.

# Events

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**OCT** **Graveside Service** 02:00PM

**10**

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Our Savior Lutheran Church

7479 Richmond Rd., Williamsburg, VA, US, 23188

# Comments

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“ Cousin Kenny

He was like a big brother to me. So many good memories on the farm, hunting, and telling stories. Kenny often went moose hunting with my dad, Ed. There were lots of stories told of their trips to Canada. Kenny always had a smile on his face and bit of mischief on his mind. Kenny was always ready with some good natured teasing and provided us all a lot of laughs.

Thanks for all the good times, Kenny, rest in peace.

Bill



Bill Schmitz, - September 30, 2020 at 05:22 PM

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“ Ken was a great neighbor and a fine man who loved his wife and family, the Navy, and RV traveling. In recent years puzzles had become a fervent hobby and he could work a complicated 1000-piece puzzle in record time! He'll surely be missed by all who knew him both nearby and across the country he loved.

Brad and Lee Haithcock

Alice Haithcock - September 26, 2020 at 02:37 PM