

Thomas Anthony Schmitz, age 96 of Perham, MN passed away on Tuesday, August, 25, 2026 at Ecumen-Emmanuel Nursing Home in Detroit Lakes, MN.

He was born in Perham, MN on October 27, 1929 to Tony and Hildegarde Schmitz. He graduated from Perham High School in 1948. He attended St. John's University in Collegeville, MN, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. He married the love of his life, Joan Gaida on June 30, 1952.

Tom and his brother, Ray, worked with their father, Tony, the founder of Schmitz Ford Garage. They took over the business in 1950 and have remained a thriving part of the Perham community for many years. Tom was also an avid photographer, hunter, and fisherman. He took many photos and movies of every family event and often you could find him casting a line or tracking game in the woods.

During their retirement, Tom and Joan continued to travel. Their many trips took them to almost every state in the USA and also to far away countries including China, Australia, Norway, and Japan.

He is survived by his children, Mary Veldhouse, Tim (Nancy) Schmitz, Cathie (Jim) Peterson, Carol (Mike) Rengel, and Jennifer Conzemius; 15 grandchildren; and 23 great grandchildren.

Tom was preceded in death by his lovely wife, Joan; brother Ray; and son-in-law, Clint Conzemius.

Celebrating THE *Life* OF



Thomas "Tom" Schmitz

October 27, 1929 - August 25, 2026





Mason Lake

*As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for you, my God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When can I go and meet with God?
My tears have been my food day and night, while people
say to me all day long, "Where is your God?"
These things I remember as I pour out my soul:
how I used to go to the house of God under the
protection of the Mighty One with shouts of joy and
praise among the festive throng.
Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed
within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise
him, my Savior and my God.*

Psalm 42:1-5

Little Pine Lake

Funeral Mass

Friday, September 4, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.
St. Henry's Catholic Church
Perham, Minnesota

Officiants

Father Omar Guanchez
Father Alan Wielinski
Deacon Randy Altstadt

Lector

Samantha Papke

Musicians

Beth Hein
Teresa Ingebrand
Lauren Peterson

Hymns

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"
"The King of Love My Shepard Is"
"On Eagle's Wings"
"Song of Farewell"
"How Great Thou Art"

Gift Bearers

Lauren Rengel
Mallory Schmitz
Hannah Schmitz

Urn Bearers

Nathan Rengel	Anthony Conzemius
Zachary Rengel	Glen Peterson
Lucas Schmitz	Phillip Peterson
Caleb Schmitz	Ian Veldhouse

Interment

St. Henry's Catholic Cemetery
Perham, Minnesota