

Raymond “Ray” Richard Schmitz, age 91, was called Home by our Heavenly Father on March 7, 2025 after a short stay at the Perham Living Transitions Unit.

Born to Anthony “Tony” and Hildegarde (Stuntebeck) Schmitz on October 12, 1933, he and his older brother Tom were raised in Perham, MN. Ray was baptized and confirmed at St. Henry's Catholic Church, and attended St. Henry's Catholic School through 8th grade.

Ray graduated from Perham High School in 1951. He participated in many activities, but was most proud to be a member of the undefeated and unscored upon Yellowjackets football team of 1950. He attended college at St. John's University where he continued to play football.

Ray met the love of his life Jean Warner in high school, and they were married July 10, 1954. After his college graduation, Ray and Jean moved from St. Cloud back to Perham. At that time, he joined his father and brother in the family Ford - New Holland dealership. Ray and Jean later moved to Little Pine Lake where they raised their seven children.

He was also a charter member of the Perham Rotary Club and a lifetime member of the Knights of Columbus.

Ray and Jean traveled in their retirement, including trips to Alaska, Hawaii, Mexico, and London, but Ray's favorite place to vacation was Anna Maria Island in Florida where he and Jean spent many winter months. They met many people and made some life-long friends.

Ray was enthusiastic about hunting and fishing, especially with his children, grandchildren, and even great-grandchildren. Hunting and fishing stories were always plentiful. With the help of his family, Ray was able to enjoy one final deer hunt last fall. He was a passionate supporter of whatever activities grandchildren and great-grandchildren were in and would travel almost anywhere to watch them. Family gatherings meant so much to him, no matter how loud or crowded.

Surviving Ray is his loving wife of 70 years, Jean; his children Ginny (Milton) Kimball, Greg (Pam) Schmitz, Mike (Diane) Schmitz, Tom (Nancy) Schmitz, Joe (Lori) Schmitz, Dan (Carol) Schmitz, and Peggy (Randy) Johnson; 19 grandchildren, 43 great-grandchildren; and his brother Tom Schmitz. Preceding Ray in death were his parents, Tony and Hildegarde Schmitz.

*“Those who
touch
our lives,
stay in our
hearts
forever.”*



*In
Loving
Memory*

Raymond “Ray” Schmitz

October 12, 1933 - March 7, 2025



Fill not your heart with
PAIN AND SORROW,
But remember me in every tomorrow...
Remember the **JOY,**
the **LAUGHTER,**
the *smiles,*
I've only gone to rest a little while.
Although my leaving causes pain & grief
My going has eased my hurt
And given me relief.
So dry your eyes and remember me,
Not as I am now, but as I used to be.
Because I will
REMEMBER YOU ALL
And look on with a smile.
Understand in your hearts
I've only gone to rest a little while

Memorial Mass
Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.
St. Henry's Catholic Church
Perham, Minnesota

Officiants
Father Omar Guanchez - Father Tom Skaja
Deacon Randy Altstadt - Deacon Richard Quistorff

Mass Servers
Brooks Kupferschmid - Xander Schmitz - Chase Schmitz

Musicians
Heidi Kalina - Janel Altstadt

Accompanist
Michael Mettler

Musical Selections
"Amazing Grace" - "Hosea" - "On Eagle's Wings"
"I Am the Bread of Life" - "Song of Farewell"
"How Great Thou Art"

Readers
Mike Peterson - Harper Schmitz

Readings
Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9 - Psalm 42
1 John 3:1-2 - John 14:1-6

Gift Bearers
Karson Kimball - Kael Schmitz - Kyrie Getty

Urn Bearer
Greg Schmitz

Honorary Urn Bearers
Ray's Grandchildren
Tony - Jacques - Katie - Troy - Jay - Abby - Andy
Adam - Dan - Lindsay - Jon - Heidi - Miranda
Drew - Charlie - Jenna - Cole - Ryan - Seth

Interment
St. Henry's Catholic Cemetery
Perham, Minnesota