

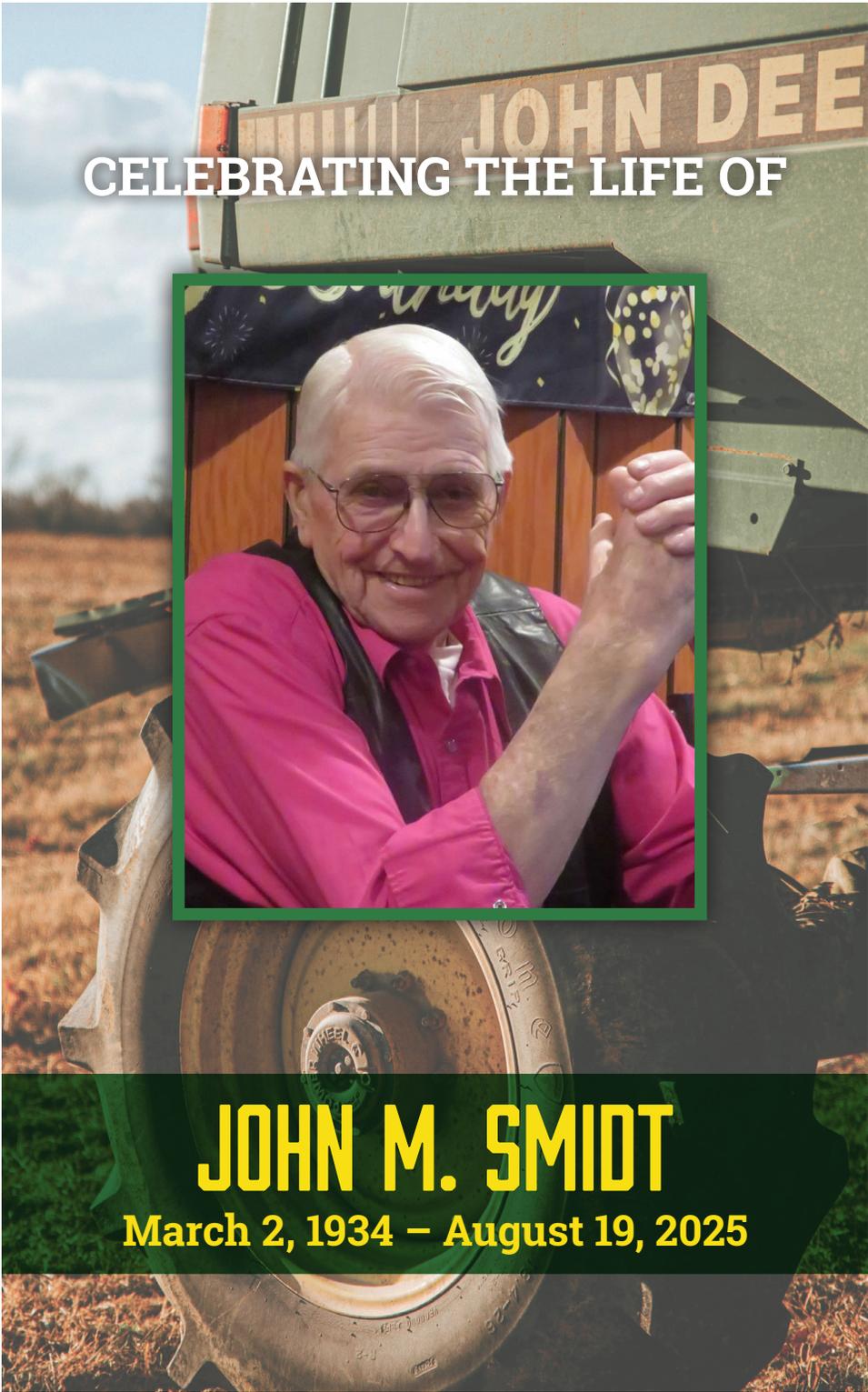


HE ONLY TAKES THE BEST

God saw you getting tired
and a cure was not to be,
so He put His arms around you,
and whispered "come to me."

With tearful eyes we watched you,
and saw you pass away.
Although we loved you dearly,
we could not make you stay.

A golden heart stopped beating,
hard working hands at rest,
God broke our hearts to prove to us
He only takes the best.



JOHN DEERE

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF



JOHN M. SMIDT

March 2, 1934 – August 19, 2025

John M. Smidt, 91, of Buffalo Center, formerly of Woden and Burt, passed away on Tuesday, August 19, 2025, in Kalona, Iowa.

John Meindert Smidt, the son of Meindert and Almina (De Wall) Smidt, was born on March 2, 1934, in Titonka. He graduated from Woden High School in 1951. After graduation, he worked on the family farm and hauled milk. John served his country in the U.S. Navy from 1955 to 1957. Following his honorable discharge, he returned to Woden and married Jean Hillenga on August 8, 1958, at Woden Christian Reformed Church. Together, they farmed north of Woden before moving to a farm near Burt in 1964. John's diverse working career included driving school bus, delivering mail, and hauling for Pioneer Seed Company. In 1984, John and Jean moved back to Woden. After the passing of his beloved wife, Jean, in 2004, John found companionship with Arliss Ullmann, with whom he shared 20 joyful years. John farmed until he was 78 years old and drove school bus for North Iowa Community Schools until 2024. John was a talented fast-pitch softball pitcher for both church and town teams until the age of 54. He enjoyed golfing, fishing, and participating in a vocal quartet throughout the years. One of his greatest joys was watching his children play sports. His continued enjoyment was watching his grandchildren and great-grandchildren play sports and various activities. John was also an avid Iowa Hawkeyes and St. Louis Cardinals fan.

He was a member of First Reformed Church in Buffalo Center and a past member of Woden Christian Reformed Church. John accepted Jesus as his Savior in September of 2024. He also belonged to the Burt and Buffalo Center VFW.

John is survived by his two children, DeAnna (Michael) Taylor of Cherokee and Alan (Teresa) Smidt of Kalona; his special friend, Arliss Ullmann of Buffalo Center; 14 grandchildren, Amanda (Chris) Christensen, Patricia (Brian) Gobrecht, Jordan (Katelyn) Taylor and Ryan (Stephanie) Smidt, Sandi (Nate) Beenken, Julianne (Corwin) Good, Tyler (Lisa) Smidt, Kyle (Laura) Smidt, Emily Smidt, Allison Smidt, Nathan (Regina) Smidt, Megan Smidt, Grace Smidt and Sophia Smidt; 35 great-grandchildren, Taylor, Kylie, Aurora, Lola, Adair; Claire, Oliver; Annie, Drew, Johnny; Mercy, Bayley, Hudson, Gavin, Lydia; Elizabeth, Miriam, Isaac, Noah, Naomi, Chloe, Hannah, Phoebe, Esther, Abigail, Lydia; Natalie, Amos, Joseph; Steven, Seth, Ethan, Elias; Felicity, Oliver; and #35 on the way; a sister, Grace Barnes of Coralville; sisters-in-law, Phyllis Smidt, Kay Hunter and Doris Haugland; brothers-in-law, Ed (Vicki) Hillenga and Dean (Suzanne) Hillenga; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Jean; his parents; an infant son, Alan John Smidt; a brother, Warren; his parents-in-law, Ed and Erna Hillenga; sister-in-law, Carol Clendenen; and brothers-in-law, Goody Bergerud and Dean Haugland.



Celebrating the Life of

JOHN M. SMIDT

March 2, 1934 – August 19, 2025

FUNERAL SERVICE

First Reformed Church

Buffalo Center, Iowa

10:30 a.m., Monday, August 25, 2025

OFFICIATING

Pastor Sue Shike

MUSIC

Carole Kettwick, Organist

Congregational Hymns

"How Great Thou Art"

"What A Day That Will Be"

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Special Music

"Farther Along" – Megan, Grace, & Sophia

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

CASKET BEARERS

John's Grandsons

MILITARY RITES

Buffalo Center Veterans Ceremonial Unit

BURIAL

Woden Christian Reformed Cemetery

9 a.m., Tuesday, August 26, 2025

The family invites everyone to a luncheon in the church basement immediately following the service.

Cafaldo
FUNERAL HOMES