

## REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF...

Lester Joseph Schmitz, 78, of Mekinock, ND, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family, Thursday, December 11, 2025, at the Fargo V A Hospital.

Lester was born on September 29, 1947, in Crookston, MN to Joseph and Marlys (Boutain) Schmitz and was the oldest of 9 children. He spent most of his early years in the Crookston and Red Lake Falls, MN area, before settling in Mekinock, ND. Lester was a member of the United States Army in which he served for over 2 years. He toured in Vietnam before discharging with the rank of Specialist 4th Class. Upon his return from the military, Lester would begin his over 45-year career as a heavy equipment operator spending time at Florian & Son's Excavating and Robison Excavating, as well as many other companies throughout his career.

During his spare time Lester enjoyed being outside. He could be found fishing, hunting, camping and driving his motorcycle. He loved trips to Dairy Queen for a cheeseburger with a side of fries for his favorite dog and co-pilot, Shelby. Lester could also be found at Superpumper each morning around 6am having coffee and sharing conversation with some of his closest friends.

Lester is survived by his siblings, Glenn, Mekinock, Dianne Charles, Moorhead, MN, Donna Wathne, Grand Forks, Kathy (Mike) McElroy, Fargo, Barb (Chuck) Hiles, Mekinock, Joe (Theresa), Arvilla, Darrel (Julie), Mekinock, Jeff (Roxanne) Mekinock, several nieces and nephew as well as many other family members and friends.

He was preceded in passing by his daughter, Tammy and his parents, Joseph and Marlys and sister-in-law Judy.



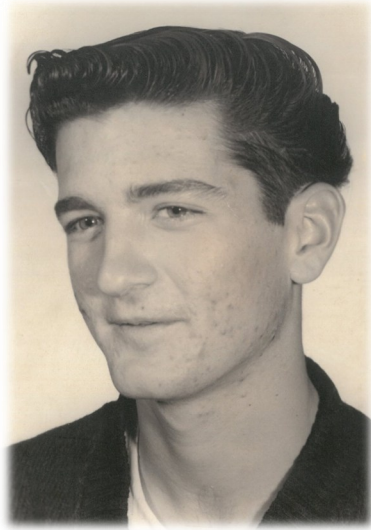
## CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

# LESTER SCHMITZ



Now I lay me  
down to sleep,  
I pray the *Lord*  
my soul to keep.

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God saw he was getting tired  
And a cure was not to be,  
So He put His arms around him  
And whispered, "Come with Me."  
With tearful eyes we watched him suffer  
And saw him fade away,  
Although we loved him dearly  
We could not make him stay.  
A golden heart stopped beating  
Hard working hands to rest,  
God broke our hearts to prove to us  
He only takes the best.

The family wishes to express their appreciation  
for your thoughts and prayers. Please join them  
for lunch following the service.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

# LESTER JOSEPH SCHMITZ



## DATE & TIME OF SERVICE

Friday ▪ May 15, 2026 ▪ 10:00am  
Amundson Funeral Home Chapel  
Grand Forks, North Dakota

## OFFICIATING

Fr. Jayaseelan Chinnappan

## MUSIC

"Precious Memories": Alan Jackson  
"God Knows My Name": Juno Skye  
"Walk Me Home Lord": J.C.M.G.

## MILITARY HONORS

United States Army National Guard  
American Legion Post: 157 ▪ VFW Post: 3817

## BURIAL

Fargo National Cemetery  
Harwood, North Dakota

September 29, 1947 ~ December 11, 2025