

Close the Gate

For this one farmer the worries are over,
lie down and rest your head,
your time has been and struggles enough,
put the tractor in the shed.

Years were not easy, many downright hard,
but your faith in God transcended,
put away your tools and sleep in peace.

The fences have all been mended.

You raised a fine family,
worked the land well and always followed the Son,
hang up your shovel inside of the barn;
your work here on earth is done.

A faith few possess led your journey through life,
often a jagged and stony way,
the sun is setting,
the cattle are all bedded and here now
is the end of your day.

Your love of God's soil has passed on to your kin;
the stories flow like fine wine,
wash off your boots in the puddle left by blessed rain
one final time.

You always believed that the good Lord
would provide and He always had somehow,
take off your gloves and put them down,
no more sweat and worry for you now.

Your labor is done, your home now is in heaven;
no more must you wait,
your legacy lives on, your love of the land,
and we will close the gate.



The family of John E. Schmidt would like to thank you for your presence here today, words cannot truly express what your support means to us during this time of loss.

No other acknowledgement will be sent.

They would also like to thank the staff at the Minnesota Vets Home in Luverne for the great care that was given to John.

IN LOVING
Memory



John E. Schmidt

February 4, 1930 - December 16, 2025



John Everett Schmidt was born to John William and Hilda Dorothy (Henry) Schmidt on February 4, 1930 in Flandreau, South Dakota. When he was one month old, he moved with his parents to a farm in Gray Township of Pipestone County, Minnesota. While living there, he attended school in District #24. When he was nine years old, he began his lifelong love of raising Hereford cattle. In 1944, he moved with his parents to a farm in Sweet Township of Pipestone County. After completing his education, he helped on the family farm. On January 19, 1952, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served during the Korean Conflict. When he was discharged from the service on October 21, 1953, he returned to the farm. On June 29, 1957, he was united in marriage to Delores Staeffler at St. Leo Catholic Church in Pipestone. Following their marriage, they lived on the farm in Sweet Township until his retirement in 1995. At that time, they moved into Pipestone. John passed away peacefully on Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Luverne, Minnesota, at the age of 95 years, 10 months and 12 days.

John was a member of St. Leo Catholic Church in Pipestone where he was baptized and confirmed. He was active in the church and served on the church board and as an usher. He was also a member of the Michael Boock American Legion Post 6, the Midland Coop Board of Directors, the American Hereford Association, and the Minnesota Hereford Association where he served as a past president. He served on the Pipestone County Fair Board for 20 years. He enjoyed showing cattle, judging livestock, and being a 4-H member and leader.

He is lovingly remembered by his three children, John A. (Joyce) Schmidt of Pipestone, Minnesota, Joan A. (Barry) Kelley of LeRaysville, Pennsylvania, and Jacqueline J. (Danny) Schaefer of Marshall, Minnesota; six grandchildren, Jenna McGunegill, Amber Seiss, Brittney Schaefer, Shelby Buchholz, Addy Louwagie, and Jason Kelley; ten great-grandchildren, Logan, Mabry, Max, Lenox and McClaine McGunegill, Piper and Brooks Seiss, Alice and Austin Schaefer and Sonny Buchholz; and sister, Kathryn (Bill) Clayton of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; and brother-in-law, Terry Schutz of Hamilton, Montana. He was preceded in death by his wife, Delores A. Schmidt; his parents; his brother, Earl H. Schmidt; his sisters, Jean (Susie) Jones, Margaret Bickel, Carol Kaiser, and Marilyn Schutz; and his brothers-in-law, Wallace Jones, Murlyn Bickel and Al Kaiser.

In Loving Memory of

John E. Schmidt



Mass of Christian Burial

Tuesday, December 23, 2025 - 10:30 AM

St. Leo Catholic Church

Pipestone, Minnesota

Celebrating - Fr. Joshua Miller

Scripture Readings

Psalms 23 - Read by Jenna McGunegill

John 14:1-6 - Read by Amber Seiss

Music

Organist - Carol Haubrich

Soloist - Kevin Paulsen "On Eagle's Wings"

Congregational Hymns

"Amazing Grace" "Lead Me, O Lord"

"Song of Farewell" "Song of the Angels"

"How Great Thou Art"

Casket Bearers

Jenna McGunegill Amber Seiss

Brittney Schaefer Shelby Buchholz

Addy Louwagie Jason Kelley

Interment

St. Leo Catholic Cemetery

Pipestone, Minnesota

Military Honors

Michael Boock American Legion Post 6

Pipestone, Minnesota

Arrangements By

HARTQUIST FUNERAL HOME

www.HartquistFuneral.com