



Joseph "Joe" Schmitz

January 31, 1949 - July 28, 2012

Joseph "Joe" E. Schmitz, age 63, of Bear Valley died Saturday, July 28, 2012 at the University of Wisconsin Hospital in Madison, WI as a result of complications of diabetes.

Joe was born January 31, 1949 at the Richland Center Hospital the son of Kenneth P. & Wynema "Sue" (Zajicek) Schmitz. Joe worked for many years at Cardinal Glass. He loved the great outdoors, hunting, fishing & gardening.

Survivors include his mother Sue Schmitz of Spring Green, WI; a brother Bert (Mary) Schmitz of Bear Valley, WI; 2 nieces Victoria (Bruce) Hying of Dodgeville, WI, Jean Schmitz & friend Kial Silver of Richland Center; a nephew Kevin Schmitz of Bear Valley, WI; many other relatives & friends.

He was preceded in death by his father Ken Schmitz.

Funeral Services will be held on Friday, August 3, 2012 at 3:00 PM at the Clary Memorial Funeral Home in Richland Center with Pastor Craig Peach officiating. Burial will be held at St. Killian's Cemetery in Bear Valley. Visitation will be held on Friday from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at the Clary Memorial Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall

KB

“ So many great memories of Joe! Things just wont be the same. This is a man with a heart of GOLD! Always thinking of others...I dont know who will help me catch the bigger fish than Mike now! Take care Schmitz family--We love you guys!

Kari McCorkle - Richland Center, WI - friend/fishing buddy - August 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ There is so many things i could say about joe he always had time to get the boat out or help me hunt if i needed it (i think joe and kevin might have felt a little sorry for me on my skills at this area). Im really going to miss calling and asking if he was hunting or fishing because the tv only had 2 channels and he would give his little laugh and tell me what show he was watching. You will be greatly missed Joe. We had great time. later dude.

Mike Mccorkle - richland center, WI - friend - August 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BN

“ There's many memories that come to mind whether it be benefitting from your work in the vege garden, or eating your latest catch(fish and turtle always my favorite), or you pointing out where the best spots are for hunting in the "Valley", you always had something to share. The memory of the furry animals(stuffed of course and not real) that you gave Ava for Christmas will always stand out. I can only imagine what you may have thought about giving her knowing you gave her mother(Vicki) a skunk to play with.....:) There's many days go by that she'll ask for the animal(s) that Uncle Joe gave her and she plays with them quite regularly. You were a Great Uncle that passed along many stories and much knowledge to his nephews and others. I'm glad we got to experience as much of them as we did. There's no doubt you left a legacy that your own nephew Kevin will continue to share for his nieces and nephews in the future. Thanks for the memories we'll cherish them forever!!

Bruce, Vicki, Ava, and Kason Hying

Bruce Hying - Dodgeville, WI - Nephew - August 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ I was fortunate to have spent two weeks a year during summer vacation in my grade school days on "the farm" with Grandma Schmitz and Uncle Ken & Aunt Sue with Joe & Bert. I was a little younger than Joe and a little older than Bert. I spent just a few nights at Grandma's house and soon determined that it was alot more fun to be with Joe and Bert, even if it meant having to use the out house at night. I have indelible memories spending time with Joe. Fishing in the creek, whomping frogs (Aunt Sue would cook em up), swimming in the creek, Joe wading in a pond with a pole and pulling snappers out by the tails, tossing them on the ground for me to put in a gunny sack. Skinning squirrels (yuck), shooting a BB gun, a .22 and a bow & arrow for the first time. One time a sparrow landed on a fence near Joe and he reached out and grabbed it. He let it go. We found several grass snakes (won't go into details there). We carved overgrown cucumbers into canoes and floated them in down the creek.

As a passenger, I went 100 miles per hour for the first time... guess who was driving! I guess when the question was posed "have you ever gone 100 miles an hour yet?" I should have said sure..... but I said no, and another "first" was off the bucket list. Joe would show his mighty strenght by punching holes with his fist in the milk house walls, taking care to know the spacing of the 2X4's first. He was no dummy. When Joe attended MATC in Madison I was at work at a Krogers store, having driven the family second car to work. Joe stopped by and wanted to go bar hopping and I said sure. off we went to State Street where he played chicken with the rear bumper of his car and the college students behinds. Anyways, after a full night of fun, he took me home. My mom woke me up in the morning and asked me "where is the car"? I said isn't it in the garage? She said no it isn't. After waking up a bit more, I realized that it was in the parking lot at the grocery store because Joe brought me home instead of letting me drive. Thanks Joe..... for not letting me drive and for having to pay for a cab ride to get the car. I was fortunate to see and talk with Joe for a minute at Mary Schmitz's benifit this summer.

Tom Erstad

Tom Erstad - Stoughton, WI - Cousin - August 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ *We are unable to attend the memorial, but our thoughts will be with you.*

"Cool" will be missed greatly. So sorry!

Pat and Janet

Pat and Janet Babbitt - Friend - August 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *My sympathies on the death of Joe.*

Thoughts & Prayers are with your families.

Joanne (Bindl) Ganske

daughter of Gertie (Schmitz) and Walter Bindl

Joanne (Bindl) Ganske - Middleton, WI - cousin - August 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

NL

“ My best hunting experience was with Joe. Joe, his nephew Kevin and my husband Dwayne took me out one afternoon to do a little turkey hunting. Joe and Kevin called, which was amazing all on its own - what an incredible talent, and wouldn't you know it almost immediatly a whole group of turkeys came walking right up the hill. I couldn't even see them because I'm so short, I was sitting too low and all I could hear are these two whispers (Joe and Kevin) "Shoot! Shoot!" Dwayne and I look back to see Joe and Kevin about to burst with excitement, pointing with as little movement as possible, wide eyed and wondering what in the world we were waiting for. We shared many laughs after the turkeys passed and it is a memory I will think of often and be thankful to have. What a wonderful man. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends. Joe will always be with every one of us because he left his mark in everyone's hearts.

Nichole Lurvey - August 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KN

“ I love you, cherrish you and will miss you forever

KEVIN SCHMITZ - BEAR VALLEY, WI - NEPHEW - August 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Fish on!!!! RIP Joe I know your catching, not just fishing!!!

Matt Franklin - August 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ Deer camp this year will definitely be different without Joes spread of pickled fish, cheese & sausage. The fish stories will not be as big, the hunting stories not as exciting...but come opening day of deer, turkey, and fishing season or while out looking for morels in the spring, Joe will be there. Because in the wind he's still alive!

Bye my friend, and thanks.

You'll be missed, but remembered always,

*Steve Post
Fredd Carr
Hunter Post
Preston Post*

Steve Post - Blue mounds, WI - August 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ *May your fond memories provide strength during this difficult time.*

Dale Dobbs - Lone Rock, WI - July 30, 2012 at 12:00 AM