



Alton "Smitty" Schmitt

May 19, 1931 - April 17, 2025

Alton "Smitty" Schmitt, 93 of Kearney passed away Thursday, April 17, 2025 at the Central Nebraska Veterans Home in Kearney. Funeral services will be held 10:00 a.m. Friday, April 25, 2025 at the Central Nebraska Veterans Home in Kearney. Interment will follow at North Logan Cemetery near St. Paul, NE. Visitation will be held 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Thursday at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home.

Memorials are suggested to the family for future designation. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com. Services are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

Alton Ervin Schmitt was born on the family farm on May 19, 1931 near Roscoe, SD to Fred and Lydia (Himmerich) Schmitt. He was the youngest of 5 children.

In 1951, Alton was drafted into the Army and later enlisted in the Navy. He was assigned to the U.S.S. Rodgers, a Destroyer, during the Korean Conflict. Alton served in every major body of water, spending much time in the Bering Sea. He received many honors and medals during his service, even one from the Korean Government. He proudly served until his honorable discharge in 1955.

Following his discharge, Alton used the GI Bill to attend Barber school in Omaha, NE. He spent a year barbering in Falls City, NE before moving to Holdrege, NE. After a year working at Al's Barbershop, he began his 57-year tenure at the Dale Hotel Barber Shop. On April 2, 1989, he was united in marriage to Sylvia Hilty in Holdrege, NE. They were married 33 years until Sylvia's untimely death in October of 2022.

Alton was a member of Zion Lutheran Church, American Legion, 40/8, VFW and DAV. He was the Commander of the Legion on several occasions and served as Chef de Gar for the 40/8 both locally and at the state and regional levels. Alton enjoyed collecting barbershop memorabilia and at one time collected stamps.

Left to cherish his memory are his children, Carrie Gross of Omaha and Patrick Schmitt of Omaha; stepchildren Kim (George) Smith of Kearney, Kevin Hilty of Loup City; grandchildren, Trey (Meghan) Gross of Logan, UT and Tylore Gross of Omaha; step grandchildren Nicholas (Nikki Mooney) Potter, Kasey (Tyler) Potter, Logan Potter, Shyanne (Tully) Howell, Holly (Tyler Black) Smith, Hope (Jayden Vandiest) Smith, Brady Hoss; great granddaughter, Mayze Gross; step great grandchildren, Destiny, Ezekial, Aubree, Asia, Romeo, Jayda, Lucky, Kye, Wezlee, Fox, Koe and Mabel; as well as many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Alton was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Sylvia Schmitt; a young son; siblings, Leontina Whitbeck, Art Schmitt, Alvin Schmitt and Marvin Schmitt.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **24**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations
4115 Ave N
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 234-3500
info@osrfh.com
<https://www.osrfh.com>

Funeral Service

APR **25**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Central Nebraska Veteran's Home
4510 E. 56th Street
Kearney, NE 68847

Tribute Wall

AN

“ *i will always remember and miss his laugh, i'd give anything to hear it one last time. his scrambled eggs were THE BEST and no matter how many times i've tried to replicate them, i can never seem to make them just the way he did. i'll always think of him when i pass daylight donuts and especially when the huskers play. he was such a kind and loving person, i think i'll miss him for as long as i live. i hope he's at peace and with sylvia now:’(*



Anon - May 14, 2025 at 08:16 PM



“ *It is April 30th. I just heard of Smitty's demise. I am so sorry that I was unable to attend his services. Smitty was a stalwart of the Holdrege American Legion Martin-Horn Post #66 Honor Guard and a solid part of the foundation of what that organization was in its glory days. I would have been honored, had I known of his funeral in time, to have been a part of his Honor Guard. He deserved the greatest of respect and honor owed to him. I am certain that many of our fellow Legionnaires would share my sentiments.*

Brian T. Osborn
Past Cdr. Post #66

BT Oz - April 30, 2025 at 04:24 PM

NH

“ I have many good memories of times spent with Sylvia and Smitty. They were good friends of my parents, Orval and Ruth Harms and shared times at various Legion events. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Nancy Harms & Gerhart Wehrbein

Nancy Harms - April 25, 2025 at 04:28 PM

JW

“ Jim W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Alton "Smitty" Schmitt.

Jim W. - April 25, 2025 at 12:26 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Alton "Smitty" Schmitt.



April 23, 2025 at 10:54 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Alton "Smitty" Schmitt.

April 23, 2025 at 10:54 AM

KS

“ Always remember getting my bangs cut after dad would get a haircut cut definitely good memories!!!

Katherine Stewart - April 19, 2025 at 09:03 AM