



## Raymond John Schmitz

November 27, 1929 - March 16, 2015

Raymond Schmitz, 85  
Kearney resident

Raymond J. Schmitz, 85, of Kearney, died Monday, March 16, 2015 at St. Luke's Good Samaritan Village in Kearney. A Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 a.m. Thursday, March 19th at St. James Catholic Church in Kearney with the Rev. Paul Colling officiating. Interment will follow at Kearney Cemetery. The family will greet friends Wednesday 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home with a Vigil / Prayer Service beginning at 7:00 p.m. Memorials are suggested to the Central Nebraska Veteran Memorial. Condolences may be shared online at [www.osrfh.com](http://www.osrfh.com). O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Raymond John Schmitz was born near Prairie Center on November 27, 1929 to John and Josephine (Vermeulen) Schmitz. He went to country school for grade school years and graduated from Kearney High School in 1948. He went on to earn his degree from Kearney State College in 1956. Ray also attended the University of Northern Colorado. He was employed as a CPA in Denver, and as a teacher in Fort Morgan, CO, Alliance, NE and Madrid Schools for several years. He moved back to Kearney in 1963 when he began his employment with Kearney State College until his retirement in 1992. On May 17, 1974, Ray was united in marriage to Ruth Workentine in Casper,

Wyoming. Ray was a longtime member of the Sons of American Legion, B.P.O.E, Eagles Club and several school associations. He was also a member of St. James Catholic Church. Ray enjoyed woodworking, stained glass and gardening.

Survivors include his wife, Ruth Schmitz of Kearney; son, John Schmuser and wife, Kelly of Hunter, ND; daughter, Keli Viereck-Naehring and husband, Dave Naehring of Houston, TX; grandchildren, Amanda Viereck and Nicollet Schmuser; sisters, Helen Evans of Omaha and Doris Fitzgerald of Kearney as well as, several nieces and nephews. Ray was preceded in death by his parents; son, Glen; brother, Donald and sister, Mary Jean.

# Cemetery Details

## Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I  
Kearney, NE 68847  
(308) 233-3244

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 18. 6:00 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>

## Vigil / Prayer Service

MAR 18. 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>

## Mass of Christian Burial

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MAR 19. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. James Catholic Church  
3801 Avenue A  
Kearney, NE 68847

# Tribute Wall



“ *Raymond John Schmitz*

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January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM

“ Professor Raymond Schmitz, as he was initially known to me, was my Audit and Cost Accounting professor. If there was a stricter professor who demanded more excellence out of each student, I have never been aware of one. Ray, as I came to know him, was a tall imposing man who loved the art of teaching and his students. He could be seen walking down the hallways talking with students, teaching in the classroom with the windows opens in the summer months for those awfully hot and humid Nebraska days as well as tightly closed in the infamous winter semester. No matter the weather, he was at school teaching or seeing students in his office.

For me again, I was late to class in the spring of 1974 and my classmates were going in the opposite direction, away from the classroom. Just then, Ray was walking down the hallway and we were both in shock. My shock was from him seeing me late...again. His shock was from learning that another student, also named Michael Nelson, was driving fast, slid under a truck and died. Ray, of course, assumed it was me and dismissed class for the day! For years after we laughed about the only time he dismissed a class. In the same period, Ruth had moved to Kearney and began teaching at Kearney State. I took her course, Business Communications, which taught me so much about the ability to communicate effectively in business. Today, I still use what I learned from Ruth and Ray.

In my graduating year, Ray saw promise in me and went the extra mile to mention my name to one of the recruiters that had come to campus. It was his caring enough for me, as well as the other students, that allowed me to capture a job offer that became my foundation for my career today. I cannot and will not ever forget Ray's commitment to education and his students, so rare indeed. Just before I graduated from Kearney State, I was talking with his nephew who told me that Ray felt saddened to have put so much of himself into each student's educations but never heard back from the students later in life to see how the diploma from Kearney had formed their futures. So, with that in mind, I always tried to call or

*see Ray when I was in Kearney or even a chance meeting for dinner with Ray and Ruth in San Francisco or a few days' visit in England.*

*Ray never complained about anything over all the years and kept a mischievous smile and good words to all. Whenever I think about Ray, I too get that smile as memories flood into my mind.*

*Michael B Nelson, Class of '74*

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**Michael B Nelson** - July 14, 2015 at 06:14 PM

KS

“*Kent Sandstrom lit a candle in memory of Raymond John Schmitz*



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**Kent Sandstrom** - March 19, 2015 at 08:22 AM

VO

“ *Mr. Schmitz was a very special person to me.... not just as a professor, but as a friend and a mentor. I was a non-traditional student before it was popular... a young married woman with two small children. I became his professor's assistant and learned more from him than most all of my "teacher education" classes. To his credit today, I am still in the teaching world, now with my own business teaching employees in their own businesses. Mr. Schmitz challenged me and taught me to be fascinated with income taxes, and I now like to think that I he helped me to become the successful business woman that I am....*

*Ruth, you were also my teacher in my last semester and I remember how much you also cared.....*

*May God be with you and your family at this time. Be assured there are a lot of students like me who owe so much to him....*

*Vicki Obermiller Class of '76*

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**Vicki Obermiller** - March 18, 2015 at 09:36 PM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Raymond John Schmitz.*



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March 18, 2015 at 07:53 AM

SC

“ Lots of love and prayers, and thanks to cousin Ray for always helping me with addresses etc. of family members when I needed them , Sorry I am so many miles away, I will remember Ray in a Special way in our chapel at St. Agnes Medical center Fresno Prayers for you also Ruth at this time. Sister Emily ,C.S.C.

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**Sister Emily Demuth, C.S.C.** - March 17, 2015 at 11:59 PM

LC

“ Love, Lois, Rollie, & Cathy purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Raymond John Schmitz.



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**Love, Lois, Rollie, & Cathy** - March 17, 2015 at 08:49 AM