

## Donald Henry Schmitz, 83

July 23, 1935 - Oct. 19, 2018



**DES MOINES** – Donald Henry Schmitz was born July 23, 1935 in Earling to Hugo and Augusta Schmitz (Block).

Donald served in the U.S. Army in Germany as a radio operator. When he returned to the U.S. he moved to Des Moines for work, met the love of his life, Sandra, while "scooping the loop," and they made their home there. Don worked for Armstrong/Pirelli Tire as a tire builder for 35 years, and being a person not to sit idle, worked at Prairie Meadows another 19, and the Iowa State Fairgrounds for various events.

Donald and Sandra loved international travel the best, but in earlier years, they did many camping trips with children right beside them. Donald enjoyed St. Louis Cardinal baseball, Iowa Hawkeye sports, coaching his sons early on, and riding roller coasters with grandchildren. He was always active.

Donald died Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 in Des Moines at the age of 83.

Donald was preceded in death by his parents, Hugo and Augusta and a son, Randy, and brother Jerry and his wife Norma Schmitz.

Donald is survived by his wife, Sandra Jean Schmitz (Rice), daughter, Kim Schmitz and Mike Kain; sons Jeff Schmitz and Melissa Schooley; Kenny and Beth Schmitz; sisters Mary Ann and Virgil Coenen, Arlene and Wayne Justice; a brother, Gail Schmitz; eight grandchildren; and five great grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2018 at St. Joseph Catholic Church with Rev. Joseph Pins, celebrant. Honorary pallbearers were Carrie Kain and Ashley Schmitz. Pallbearers were Danny Rinehart, Adam Schmitz, Jake Schmitz, Jason Kain, Jeffrey Schmitz and Randy Schmitz. Interment with military honors was at Laurel Hill Cemetery in Des Moines provided by IAARNG Honor Guard, Camp Dodge, Johnston and Dean Avenue VFW Post #738.

Memorials may be directed to St. Joseph Catholic Church. Iles Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.