



Larry Eugene Schmidt

June 5, 1945 - January 15, 2023

Larry Eugene Schmidt, 77, of Alva, Oklahoma, and formerly of Goessel, Kansas, passed away on January 15, 2022, at his home.

Larry was born on June 5, 1945, in Goessel, Kansas, to parents Ferd and Edna Schmidt. He graduated from Goessel High School, after setting the school high jump record. He enjoyed helping on the family farms and helping with the family's custom cutting business that worked harvests from the Dakotas to Texas. He graduated from Kansas State University with honors in 1968, with a degree in agricultural education. At K-State, he was a proud member of Farmhouse fraternity and was involved in a variety of clubs and organizations in K-State's College of Agriculture, including the livestock judging team.

In his senior year, he married Sue Engle of Madison, Kansas (now Sue Barrientos, of Piedmont, Oklahoma), and they eventually made their home in Arkansas City, Kansas. Larry became the ag instructor at Arkansas City High School, where he sponsored an award-winning Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter and, for many students, became their favorite teacher. He then started his banking career at Home National Bank.

Larry and Sue had two children, Brody and Ashley, and moved back to the Goessel area. Larry shepherded efforts to open a local bank for the agricultural community, the Wheatland Bank of Goessel, where he then went on to serve as bank president. He was the president of the Kansas Association of Bank Agricultural Representatives in the late 1970s.

Larry was a water-skiing phenom; he and his friends spent their summers slalom skiing and he eventually introduced his children and grandchildren to watersports. His idea of a “ski trip” was water skiing several hundred miles down the Kerr Navigation System of locks from the top of the White River down through parts of the Mississippi River, once attracting local reporters to their effort, as he and his friends were the first (crazy) ones to accomplish this feat. Even late in life, Larry shared his love of the water with his family and friends. If you ever met him, he probably invited you to the lake.

He had a lifetime love of cars that was sparked by his Uncle Elmer. What started as drag racing on the streets eventually grew up into a stock car racing obsession. He had a fondness for left-hand turns and fast Fords. In the 1980s, Larry raced stock cars around Kansas – bright yellow cars, emblazoned with the number L87 – with his home track being 81 Speedway in Wichita. In the late 1980s, he consistently ranked in the Top 10 for the Roadrunner stock class.

The 1990s saw career changes and a series of moves that ended in Oklahoma, with a long stint in Barnsdall, Oklahoma, where he helped grow Wells Ranch Supply to the largest fleet of paddlegwagon trailers serving Purina Mills. He then moved to Alva, Oklahoma to run an over-the-road refrigerated transport company, ML&C Trucking.

In the early 2000s, Larry met Debra Hogan, whom he would eventually marry. Larry and Debra spent several years of their retirement traveling the southern United States with their travel trailer until she lost her battle with cancer in 2019. Larry missed her dearly and poured his time into helping his son’s business, SPI, and chasing his grandchildren. Known to his grandchildren as “PaPa”, Larry loved all of the grandpa duties that came his way and would drop everything for his grandchildren. He spent countless hours in his garage, which he always called his favorite room of the house. He loved farming with his brother Ron in Kansas and always looked forward to harvest. And he loved good conversation; he could talk with anyone about almost anything. His family and friends will miss him, and those good conversations, dearly.

Larry is preceded in death by his wife Debra Hogan, his parents Ferd and Edna Schmidt, and his sister-in-law Judy Schmidt.

Larry's surviving family members include son Brody Schmidt, and granddaughters Lyla and Kelsey Schmidt, of Alva, Oklahoma; daughter Ashley Krause, her husband Jay, and grandchildren Henry, Alice and Lucy Krause, of Denver, Colorado; stepson Michael Hogan and his wife, Shanda of Fort Collins, Colorado and grandchildren Braden Hogan and Ciara Johnson; brother Ron Schmidt of Lehigh; sister Sharon Schroeder and her husband Richard, of Topeka, Kansas; brother Jerol Schmidt and his wife Delome of Goessel, Kansas; many nieces and nephews, and their children; and his beloved dog, Bella.

A funeral service is planned for January 20, 10 a.m., at the Nash Christian Church, 116 N. Main Street in Nash, Oklahoma. A brief graveside service will take place the same day at 4 p.m. at the Tabor Cemetery north of Newton, Kansas (the cemetery is a quarter mile west of Tabor Mennonite Church, 891 Chisholm Trail, Newton, Kansas).

Cemetery Details

Tabor Mennonite Church Cemetery

90th Rd
Newton, KS 67114

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JAN 20. 10:00 AM (CT)

Nash Christian Church
116 N Main
Nash, OK 73761

Burial

JAN 20. 4:00 PM (CT)

Tabor Mennonite Church Cemetery
90th Rd
Newton, KS 67114

By Goessel, KS

Tribute Wall

PS

“ *Rest In Peace*

pat starnes - May 01, 2023 at 01:04 AM



“ *I was sad to hear that Larry had passed. My husband worked for him several years ago, and thought highly of him. I enjoyed visiting with him over the years when I was back in town.*

Tina Shepperd - January 25, 2023 at 05:12 PM

MK

“ *Good guy. My memory of him is I delivered hay baled to liberty feedyards where he worked and that was the only time I enjoyed handling bale's because we were working together. This was a long time ago. Condolences to his family. Max Krause*

Max Krause - January 24, 2023 at 10:02 AM

LB

“ *Will sure miss this guy. He was an alternate Republican Election Board Member for Woods County. When called, to be the alternate for the board member he was there no questions ask. He was there to canvass election on Tuesday and certify on Friday. Highly knowledgeable of election process. Made sure everything was done by policy and procedures. Thank you Larry. Holly and I will sure miss you!* 🇺🇸 🙏 😊

Linda Beeler - January 22, 2023 at 04:37 PM

EG

“ I’m so sorry Larry has passed and will miss our occasional text chats. I have so many good memories of him and racing with him back in the day.

Elaine (Yocom) Goodwin

Elaine Goodwin - January 19, 2023 at 05:29 PM

EG

“ I’m so sorry Larry has passed and will miss our occasional text chats. I have so many good memories of him and racing with him back in the day.

Elaine (Yocom) Goodwin

Elaine Goodwin - January 19, 2023 at 05:28 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Larry Eugene Schmidt.



January 19, 2023 at 11:51 AM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Larry Eugene Schmidt.



January 18, 2023 at 12:50 PM

AA

“ *Our thoughts and prayers to your families at the loss of Larry. What a legacy!* ”

AK, Shirley Armstrong - January 17, 2023 at 10:15 PM