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06/21/2013 - Larry D. Schmidt

Funeral services for Larry D. Schmidt, age 55, of Chadron will be Friday, June 21, 2013 at 2:00 PM at Chamberlain Chapel with Daniel Feister officiating.

Burial will be at Fairview Cemetery in Rushville following the services.

Memorials can be sent to Chamberlain Chapel, Box 970, Chadron NE 69337.

Online condolences can be made at www.chamberlainchapel.com.

Larry D. Schmidt of Chadron, Nebraska, died Friday, June 14, 2013 at St. Mary's Mayo Clinic Hospital in Rochester, Minnesota.

Larry was born to George and Neva Schmidt in Rushville, Nebraska on October 21, 1957. He spent the first three years of his life at the family ranch north of Hay Springs before they moved to Chadron. He graduated from Chadron High School. Larry married Vicki Manternach on December 17, 1978. Two boys were born to this union.

Larry worked for Burlington Northern Railroad and helped build the double track from Wyoming's coal mines through central Nebraska. After that he worked with his dad at the family ranch and worked on building a portable sawmill. After his first son was born, he became a stay-at-home dad and began bartending in the evenings. He worked at the 120 Bar for many years and then for the last three years has been Chadron's "Favorite" bartender.

Larry was one of the founding members of the Chadron Pool League and this gave him many years of enjoyment. Years ago he set up an informal Frisbee golf course at Wilson Park and has introduced many others to the sport.

Softball was another favorite activity for many years and his curve ball was hard to hit.

Larry was an excellent shot and spent many years trap shooting. Reloading and testing shells was fun for him. Hunting deer, turkey, pheasant, grouse and doves were also favorite activities. He made beautiful box turkey calls, and would only let one go to someone if it had been proven to work by calling in a turkey.

He enjoyed fishing of all kinds, and strongly believed in catch and release. Many enjoyable hours were spent in the boat, on the ice, or along a stream, bringing pictures back to show off his catch.

Nascar racing and Husker football games were seldom missed, there had to be something important going on to keep him from watching or listening to the "race" or "game".

Another favorite thing was gardening and he liked keeping a nice yard. He was good at maintaining the lawn and loved flowers. Irises and roses were particular favorites, but he also had a knack with petunias and zinnias, even gathering the zinnia seeds for planting next year.

Every year people looked forward to seeing the "big Christmas Tree" with the vertical running lights. Cars often stopped to look at the beautiful light display he would spend several weeks setting up. He would often have to get creative to keep it looking good since many of the items were made by him over the years. Several times his display has been chosen as best by various groups.

His easy-going attitude, respect and kindness to everyone, and sense of humor will be missed; but the big smile he always shared with everyone will be missed most of all.

He was preceded in death by his parents, grandparents and two brothers-in-law.

Immediate Survivors:

Wife: Vicki

Sons: John (Cordia) of Charlotte, NC; Michael of Chadron, NE.

Sister: Marilyn Petersen of Scottsbluff, NE.

Brother: Terry Schmidt of Sacramento, CA.

Brother-in-law: Jim Manternach of Chadron, NE.

Sisters-in-law: Deb (Ron) Tweed of Brookings, SD; Valerie Reeves of Box Elder, SD; Janice (Chuck) Brooks of Gering, NE; Jean (Randy) Hornbostel of Scottsbluff, NE.

Nieces, Nephews, Aunts, Uncles & Cousins: Numerous

Chamberlain Chapel of Chadron is in charge of arrangements.