



Norma Schmoker

February 17, 1935 - November 28, 2020

Norma Jean Somerville Schmoker passed away peacefully on Saturday, November 28, 2020 at Friendship Haven in Fort Dodge Iowa.

She was born February 17, 1935, to George and Lillian Somerville. She married Tom Schmoker on September 7, 1956. Norma will be lovingly remembered by her husband Tom, her three children, Lisa (Dave) Wilson of Fort Dodge, Julie (Will) Humble of Phoenix, AZ, Joe (Tracy) Schmoker of Missoula, MT, and nine grandchildren Casey Wilson (Scottsdale, AZ), Kelly Wilson (Kansas City, MO), Marisa Wilson (Salt Lake City, UT), Mark Wilson (Mexico City, Mexico), Luke Humble (Phoenix, AZ), Sydney Humble (New York, NY), Anna Schmoker (Boston, MA), T.J. Schmoker (Missoula, MT), and Lily Schmoker (New York, NY).

She is survived by her sister Betty Keefe (Malibu, CA) and was preceded in death by her parents.

Norma graduated from Fort Dodge High School in 1953 and Iowa State University in 1957 with a degree in Home Economics and Business. After teaching Home Economics and Business classes at Dayton High School, she co-founded Quality Plus Essar Corp in 1961. She was Vice President and CFO until the business was sold to Sanofi Animal Health of Paris, France, in 1989.

Norma was involved in many local and state organizations and boards where she received numerous awards for her work, including: PTA president at Cooper Elementary, 4H leader, Sunday School teacher, Junior Women's Club, Girl Scout leader, Frontier Days Parade Grand Marshall, PEO, Pi Beta Phi at Iowa State University, Ingleside Book Club, United Methodist Church Board, YMCA Board for 4 years, Webster County Development Board, First Athena Award 1986, Chamber Board Interim Director 1998, Service to Mankind Award 1998, State of Iowa Grievance Commission, 2007 Alliance for Philanthropy Award, Iowa Central Foundation Board 8 years, member of the Iowa State Rehabilitation Council, Iowa Central Humanitarian Award - Triton Hall of Fame 2014, Trinity Hospital Board for 12

years, Trinity Hospital Board President for 2 years, Fort Dodge School Board for 12 years, Fort Dodge School Board President for 2 years, State Jobs for American Graduates Board, State Workforce Development Board 12 years, and State Workforce Development Board Chair for 2 years. Norma was involved with her family in the development of the Woodlands and River Forest housing developments in Fort Dodge.

Norma's passions were family, horses, gardening, and traveling. Her love of horses and horse shows took her to many states throughout the US. Norma's love of travel led her to all seven continents and countless countries. She went on many cruises on which she made life-long friends. Of all her adventures, her favorites included annual vacations to the Caribbean and Mexico with her children and grandchildren. She enjoyed spending summers in Okoboji and winters in Scottsdale, Arizona.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Iowa Central Community College Foundation or Trinity Foundation in Norma's name. Private services will be held for the immediate family only due to COVID. A public memorial service will be considered at a future date. Arrangements have been entrusted to Gunderson Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Cemetery

North Lawn Cemetery

2201 N. 15th Street

Fort Dodge, IA, 50501

Comments



“ 1 file added to the album Funeral and Graveside Recording



Gunderson Funeral Home & Cremation Services - December 10, 2020 at 03:15 PM



“ Tom, Julie and the entire Schmoker family. I want to send my condolences and let you know you're all in my thoughts. I think we all know Norma was a wonderful wife, mother and grandmother. She was also a supportive mother figure to many of us, friends of Julie and Will, who have been “adopted” by the Schmoker family over the years. I am so lucky to have met Tom and Norma and continue to be inspired and motivated by their generosity, kindness and advice. Norma will be missed but never forgotten. Stay strong, stay safe.

Pat Nedved - December 09, 2020 at 01:09 PM



“ Uncle Tom, Lisa, Julie & Joe;

My heart is with all of you. I wish there was something I could do or say to ease your hearts.

Aunt Norma graced our lives with kindness, inspiration and pure love. She always had that spark that lit up the room. She made everyone feel at home. She was so generous with her time and talents. I learned so much from her and have so many wonderful memories that I will always cherish that include all of you. These memories are such precious gifts!

May God bless you all! Please know that Aunt Norma's light & spirit will always be with you!

We love you & hugs, always!
Sherry & Mike

Sherry Purser - December 09, 2020 at 04:11 AM



“ Many good memories of Norma and Tom over the years. One of my favorites was the night we spent with my parents at the dog track in Phoenix. My thoughts go out to the entire Schmoker family.

Mirza Hatcher - December 05, 2020 at 04:09 PM



“ I have such great memories of times with Norma and Tom over the years. When I was living in Australia in the early 90's they came to visit and made sure to take me out for a great dinner! (Pretty sure we had steak, but not as good as Iowa steak!) One of many they hosted for us - treating us like part of the family. I always remember a story Norma told us about an adventure cruise she took Tom on — but it was really just a cargo ship and Tom had to climb up and down the ladders between the decks! Always up for an adventure with a smile - lots of wonderful memories to hold in your heart.

Kathy Putz - December 04, 2020 at 08:16 PM



“ Your Mother was a beautiful person and I feel so blessed to have known her and shared many birthdays with her in Arizona. May you find strength in all of your wonderful memories together. She will never be far from your heart.

Kim Wolff - December 03, 2020 at 07:15 AM



“ I've known Norma and Tom Schmoker for almost 40 years. One of my favorite memories is when Norma and Tom came with us on a white water rafting trip on the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon. Norma got such a kick out of all us “kids” and joked that she's never seen any group drink as much beer as we did on that rafting trip. We still laugh with Julie today about feeling like we all had our Dad on this trip with us but only Julie had to do what Tom said. It was really a fun time. Norma always has a twinkle in her eye when she was around all of us and you could tell she loved being in the fray with our gang of great friends. Norma and my Mom are the same age and have birthdays one day apart in February. I will miss spending time with Norma here in Arizona. I think of Norma when I read the saying “Well behaved women rarely make history!” Norma lived life to the fullest just like Julie does. Julie must have learned that from Norma and Tom!! Sending thoughts and prayers to the family.

carol nalevanko - December 02, 2020 at 11:15 PM



“ Tom & Family,
You don't know me, but I was one of Norma's Home Ec students in Dayton way back in the late 50's. I have fond memories of her & can still remember when she took us over to your apt. in a house a couple of blocks from the high school and gave us a lesson on bathing babies, bathing your own little baby for the lesson!!!! She had a little baby tub she put on the kitchen table and proceeded to give it a bath. I also can remember they dress I made when we had sewing lessons... She was a wonderful woman and will be missed by everyone
My condolences to your family,
Diane (Carlson) Esperson
Dayton



Diane Esperson - December 02, 2020 at 10:09 PM



“ Tom,

My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Carol McElroy

Carol McElroy - December 02, 2020 at 05:34 PM



“ Oh, Lisa, I'm so sorry to read of your mother's passing. She was such an asset to Fort Dodge. She will be missed by so many. Our condolences to you and Dave and your children. Patty & Randy Ross

Patty Ross - December 01, 2020 at 05:33 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Norma Schmoker.



December 01, 2020 at 10:50 AM



“ Lisa, Dave and and family,
So sorry to hear of Norma's death. Hope you will always remember the good memories of your trips together.
Glen Westling

Glen Westling - December 01, 2020 at 09:30 AM



“ Norma was a wonderful friend and a mentor to me in my career. But more inspiring was the love and devotion that I witnessed in the partnership between Tom and Norma. Everyone was made better by knowing her.

Laurie Hendricks - November 30, 2020 at 07:38 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers go to the Schmoker family during this time of loss. Norma was an inspiration to so many leaders in Fort Dodge. During my tenure at Iowa Central I went to Norma on many occasions for advice. She was a confidant and one who always gave the best of advice. I loved her humor and her passion for her family and Fort Dodge. I loved the stories she would tell of the next venture she had planned for Joe. She will be missed. Very few have touched my life as she did. Much love to Joe and the family during this time.
Bob Paxton

Bob Paxton - November 30, 2020 at 03:00 PM



“ Norma was a kind, considerate, and compassionate woman.
She will be dearly missed. My condolences to Tom and the family!

Jo Cloud - November 30, 2020 at 02:24 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Norma's passing - I have so many amazing memories of her.
She was truly a wonderful person. The hours we spent in the barn with those horses!
Some of the best times of my life were spent with Norma. She will be missed.
Pam (Clark) Shoemaker

pam shoemaker - November 30, 2020 at 10:41 AM