



Mary Louise Schmadeke

May 28, 1947 - March 8, 2025

Mary Louise Schmadeke, age 77 of Cedar Falls, died Saturday, March 8, 2025, at Western Home Communities Martin Suites in the presence of family. She was born May 28, 1947, in Newport, Vermont, the daughter of Perry and Louise (Burns) Goodsell. Mary graduated from Waterloo West High School in 1965. She received a BA from the University of Northern Iowa in Vocational Home Economics. On August 28, 1968, Mary was united in marriage to Ronald Schmadeke in Waterloo. After marriage she taught at Orange High School in Waterloo. She then ran her own business, Teddy Bear Home Day Care before working at Child Care Resource and Referral of Northeast Iowa in Waterloo. She retired to provide childcare for her grandchildren.

Growing up she cherished her time with her grandmother where she developed her compassion for others. Mary enjoyed all types of crafts. She attended a weekly ceramics club when her children were young. She continued to be creative for many years creating her own children's birthday cakes, stamping and making blankets for her grandchildren.

Mary battled Dementia for over a decade. Dementia may have taken many of her memories, but it gave her an enthusiastic sense of humor. The disease never took away her true calling to take care of others. Even in her final days, she told others of her love for Jesus.

Mary is survived by her husband, Ron Schmadeke of Cedar Falls; her daughter, Kristal (Ben) De Jong of Cedar Falls; her son, Dean (Tracey) Schmadeke of Cedar Falls; four grandchildren, Jake Schmadeke, Kaleah De

Jong, Adeline De Jong, and Lauren Schmadeke, brother, Dean (Susan) Goodsell of Cedar Falls and brother-in-law Gary (Louise) Schmadeke of Westfield, IN.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Mary requested not to have a service as she did not want others to dwell in her passing, but honor who she was.

The family would like to provide an immense THANK YOU to Martin Suites at the Western Home who cared for her and showed her a great amount of love. They would also like to thank St. Croix Hospice for compassionately caring for her during her last months on this earth.

Online guestbook at www.richardsonfuneralservice.com.

Memorials may be directed to the family to be redirected to assist in the fight against Alzheimer's.

Tribute Wall

JS

“ *My deepest heart felt sympathies to all. She was a beautiful soul and will be missed deeply.* ”



Jen Schreiber - March 18, 2025 at 07:35 AM

BL

“ *I first visited Mary's family child care as a newbie in the early childhood field working in the Child and Adult Care Food Program! Her interactions with children were amazing. I was so happy when she joined the staff at CCR&R so we could all benefit from her knowledge and experience. Mary was a leader in the field and for many years was the only nationally accredited family child care provider in Northeast Iowa. There are only 2 in the state right now! I hope Mary's friends and family are able to celebrate her contributions to the field and the many who benefitted from her care.* ”

Brenda Loop - March 13, 2025 at 11:49 AM

JF

“ *Judy and I send our deepest sympathy to Ron and all of the family. The Schmadeke held a special place in my heart and my heart..goes out to you all. Mary was always a bright light for me when I visited Judy at the Martin Center. Her wonderful smile and sense of humor brightened many a day for me. I will be with you in spirit as you celebrate her wonderful life.* ”

John Focht - March 13, 2025 at 10:49 AM

CN

“ David and I relocated to Cedar Falls with an almost 2 year old daughter in January of 1990. We were in need of day care and our preference was for a home based environment. Social media wasn't around to guide us, coworkers were past that stage in life and we had no clue on how to proceed in finding a loving home day care for Laura. One night I read an article in the Courier which connected us to Mary. It even had a phone number. Mary not only had information, she had an opening! Over the years our family was embraced by Mary, Ron, Kristal and Dean. It truly was a family daycare. Although our children were only cared for by Mary for a decade, the friendship with other daycare families and the Schmadeke's has been for a lifetime.



Rest in peace dear Mary! Hugs to her family.
Cheryl, David, Laura, Eric and Sarah

Cheryl Neill - March 10, 2025 at 07:31 PM

JE

“ So sad to hear of Mary's passing. She was a wonderful, loving, talented, and generous friend. We had many adventures and much fun together. I am sure the children she cared for and the child care providers she mentored also have awesome memories of her. Deepest sympathy goes out to Ron, Kristal, Ben, Dean, Tracey, Brother Dean, Sue, and the entire Schmadeke Family. Love and Hugs to you all. ❤️

Janet and Jeff Everts - March 10, 2025 at 07:19 PM

JD

Mary knew kids, from their first introduction through their last day of school. Her innate knowledge of what the infant needed led to successful toddler And preschool years. Mary was a gem to all who knew her. Blessings to her family.

Jane Dahlhauser - March 12, 2025 at 12:47 PM