



## Geraldine J. "Gerry" Schmidt

January 27, 1930 - June 10, 2021

Geraldine J. Schmidt, 91, of Washington, Iowa, passed away Thursday, June 10, 2021 at the United Presbyterian (UP) Home.

Funeral services will be Monday, June 14, at 10:30 a.m. at the Washington United Methodist Church (UMC) with Pastor Kwang Song and Chaplain Andrew Zuehlke officiating. Services will be live streamed on the Jones & Eden Facebook page. Calling hours will begin noon Sunday, June 13th at the Jones & Eden Funeral Home where the family will receive friends from 2:00 until 3:30 p.m. Interment will be at Elm Grove Cemetery immediately following the service. Memorials may be made to the Washington UMC Pastor's Fund, to aide families in need; the UP Home; or the Washington, Iowa Betterment Foundation for flowers in local parks. Online condolences may be sent for Gerry's family through the web at <http://www.jonesfh.com>.

Geraldine Joan Griebel was born January 27, 1930 in Sargent, NE, the daughter of Benedict K. and Emily M. (Cadek) Griebel. She was united in marriage to James A. (Jim) Schmidt on June 11, 1948.

Gerry graduated from Sargent High School as Salutatorian and attended the University of Nebraska in Lincoln to pursue her bachelor's degree. After their marriage, she taught school for five years in rural Nebraska, where she decided the boys needed a basketball team, so she became their coach! Gerry was a die-hard Iowa Hawkeye fan and loved watching Hawkeye basketball, football and wrestling; she also rooted for the Nebraska Cornhuskers, as long as they were playing someone other than Iowa.

Jim and Gerry moved to Washington in 1954, where Gerry began substitute teaching while finishing her Bachelor's degree at Iowa Wesleyan College. She spent the next 35 years as a junior high math teacher and guidance counselor, completing her Masters and Educational Specialist degrees at the University of Iowa. Gerry's gentle, compassionate spirit helped her connect with students and parents alike. She often commented that junior high-aged students were her favorites - that she never wanted to graduate from junior high! Many

of her caregivers were students or children of former students.

For 50 years Jim and Gerry lived on West Washington Blvd. near the entrance to Sunset Park. Gerry is famous for her flower gardens, volunteering to care for flowers in Sunset Park, and was known for generously sharing flowers from her yard with those celebrating or in need of comfort. She loved to have her fingers in the soil and even as a UP Home resident, enjoyed selecting and helping plant the flower pots in front of the health center.

Gerry's community activities included several bridge clubs, serving on boards or committees of Community Chest, Delta Kappa Gamma, the United Methodist Church, AAUW, WACAN, YWCA, Community Counseling and Chapter J and OC, PEO. She was chosen as the 1992-93 Teacher of the Year; Beta Sigma Phi Woman of the Year, 1984; and YWCA Woman of the Year; 1981-82.

She is survived by her daughter, Kate Rubin (Gordon Ginsberg) of Plymouth, MN; son Kirk (Cheryl) Schmidt of Decatur, IL; grandsons Tyler (Misty) Schmidt of Milwaukee, WI and Matthew Schmidt of Los Angeles, CA; bonus granddaughter Niscah (Ronnie) Moller of Grandview, TX; great-granddaughter Mackenzie Rasar (Noah Justi) of Peoria, IL; great-great-grandson Logan James Justi; 9 bonus great-grandchildren; and sister-in-law Opal Griebel Collins (Broken Bow, NE).

Gerry was preceded in death by her parents; her husband in August of 2020; and her brother, Leo Griebel.

Gerry's family would like to thank the excellent and caring staff at the UP Home for their dedication and support.

# Cemetery

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# Events

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**Elm Grove Cemetery**

Washington, IA, 52353

**JUN 13** **Calling Hours** 12:00PM - 04:00PM

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Jones - Eden Funeral Home  
116 East Main, Washington, IA, US, 52353

**JUN 13** **Family will receive friends** 02:00PM - 03:30PM

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Jones - Eden Funeral Home  
116 East Main, Washington, IA, US, 52353

**JUN 14** **Funeral Service** 10:30AM

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United Methodist Church  
206 West Second Street, Washington, IA, US, 52353

# Comments

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“ She lived a full life & had a loving family.

Carmen Redmond

Carmen Redmond - July 10 at 08:50 PM

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“ I met Gerry in AAUW several years ago. When I think of her I think of flowers. She gave me a start of her lovely white iris which are growing on our farm now. My sympathies to Gerry's family.

Peg Stephens - June 17 at 06:30 AM

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“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Geraldine J. "Gerry" Schmidt.



June 14 at 08:48 PM

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“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Geraldine J. "Gerry" Schmidt.



June 14 at 03:59 AM

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“ I had the privilege of working with Gerry for many years at Washington Junior High. She was always happy, kind, generous, and willing to listen whether for a student or staff member. She graciously shared her roses with me on many, many occasions. Later, I enjoyed patio time with her, Jim and my Dad at the United Presbyterian Home and more often than not, she was deadheading the flowers as she visited with us.

She touched the lives of many people in so many positive ways and I feel blessed to have been one of them.

My sympathy and prayers are extended to her family.

**Cathy Kleese** - June 13 at 01:27 PM

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“ Cathy Kleese lit a candle in memory of Geraldine J. "Gerry" Schmidt



**Cathy Kleese** - June 13 at 01:21 PM

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“ Gerry was a true lady and she lived her life accordingly. Every task she faced was done with grace and attention to detail. She was the source of knowledge and humor at meetings I attended with her. She will be missed by all lucky enough to call her friend. Karen Moenck

**karen Moenck** - June 12 at 08:22 PM

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“ Mrs. Schmidt was my junior high guidance counselor, and I don't know what I would have done without her. She was a beautiful soul, filled with compassion for her students. She inspired me to become a middle school teacher, and I enjoyed keeping in touch with her over the years.

My deepest condolences,  
Becky Timmins Sisler

**Becky** - June 12 at 05:10 PM

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“ My sympathies to the loss of your mother. She was such a sweet gentle woman. I so enjoyed visiting with her and Jim. My thoughts and prayers to your family, this has been such a difficult year for you. I will always have fond memories of them both.

**Carole Martins** - June 12 at 03:49 PM

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“ Hopefully the wonderful memories of Gerry will comfort you with her passing. She was an outstanding counselor during my time at the Jr. High. Later in life as I assisted Jim with his computer she was always gracious and welcoming when I visited their home. My deepest sympathy.

**Lonna Blodgett** - June 12 at 02:08 PM

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“ best teacher ever and one of the nicest person... condolences to Kathy and Kirk....Bob Miller (class of 72)

**Robert I miller** - June 12 at 11:49 AM

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“ Ruth Heck lit a candle in memory of Geraldine J. "Gerry" Schmidt



**ruth Heck** - June 11 at 11:52 AM

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“ Dear Kate and Kirk,  
Your mom was one of my favorite teachers. I'm so glad I had the privilege of being in some of her math classes.  
I pray God will comfort you and give you peace.  
Take care.  
Marti (Roth) Walker

**Marti Walker** - June 11 at 10:01 AM

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“ Lorie Peiffer lit a candle in memory of Geraldine J. "Gerry" Schmidt



**Lorie Peiffer** - June 11 at 09:28 AM

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“ Gerry Schmidt was my mother in law. How lucky was I?! I will always remember her warm smile, grace, generous hospitality, clever sense of humor and the endless supply of crossword puzzles she would cut out and send home to me with Kate. Gerry loved her family, friends and community and took great pride in taking care of us all. Although often quiet and unassuming she led a long and remarkable life full of amazing accomplishments. She, and husband Jim, leave a legacy of being a rock for their family and a force for good in the lives and communities where they lived. I miss them both.  
Gordy Ginsberg

**Gordon Ginsberg** - June 11 at 09:14 AM

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“ Steve Chalupa lit a candle in memory of Geraldine J. "Gerry" Schmidt



Steve Chalupa - June 10 at 07:28 PM

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“ Annette M Fritz sent a virtual gift in memory of Geraldine J. "Gerry" Schmidt



Annette M Fritz - June 10 at 06:26 PM



“ My deepest sympathy

Annette M Fritz - June 10 at 06:27 PM

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“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Geraldine J. "Gerry" Schmidt.



June 10 at 05:51 PM